FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KUNA: SYRIA TO MEDIATE IN LIBYA-PLO DISPUTE

LD301628 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 30 December--A senior Palestinian official said today that Syria will resume mediation between Libya and the PLO in order to solve the dispute between them, a dispute that led to the straining of relations between the PLO and Libya.

Fatah Central Committee member and its representative in the Gulf area, Salim az-Za'nun, told a press conference today that the mediation begun by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Tripoli will be resumed following the meetings of the 7th regional Arab Ba'th Party conference.

He added that the Libyan-Palestinian dispute "was a political and not financial one," and that it stems from the fact that the PLO "does not permit itself to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Libyan people, and likewise does not accept the imposition of its experiences by any authority in Libya on the Palestinian people."

Az-Za'nun denied that some resistance movement groups have agreed to be represented in Libya by popular committees, adding that the recent visit by a number of leaders of Palestinian organizations to Libya took place "on their personal initiative and were additional efforts to clear the atmosphere."

RIYADH: ISLAMIC LEAGUE APPEALS FOR AID TO AFGHAN 'BROTHERS'

LD011744 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 80 LD

[Summary] Mecca--The World Islamic League has called on Muslims throughout the world to make donations to aid thousands of their Muslim brothers in Afghanistan who have been rendered homeless as a result of the communist attack. A statement issued by the league said that the league's relief fund in Mecca will receive donations from Muslims and will transfer them to the Mojahedin in Afghanistan.

TEHRAN: 'ARAFAT PLEDGES MILITARY SUPPORT FOR IRAN

JN300735 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Dec 79 JN

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that he is ready to place the Palestinian forces at the disposal of Iran. This assertion was made during the meeting he had with military commanders of the Palestinian and joint forces in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat also praised the Iranian revolution.

PLO SPOKESMAN CALLS FOR ARAB SUPPORT OF IRANIAN REVOLUTION

NC290756 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 29 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, the official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, has called on the Arab nation to stand united with the Iranian revolution against any U.S. aggression which may take place against it. Abu Mayzar said: We consider ourselves and the Iranian revolution in one trench against the common enemy--imperialism and Zionism.

KUWAIT

MINISTER PREDICTS 'CONSIDERABLE' OIL PRICE INCREASES IN 1980'S

LD300930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 30 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 30 December--Kuwait Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said in a press interview published here today that oil prices will stabilize in the early months of the new year but will increase greatly in the 1980's.

In the interview, published in the Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-ANBA', the oil minister called on the oil-producing countries to cut their consumption of oil. He warned that the growing consumption of oil by these countries will transform many of them into self-sufficient rather than exporting countries and "might even transform them into oil-importing countries."

In response to a question, Shaykh 'Ali said oil prices are expected to stabilize during the first few months of 1980 but in the 1980's "all indications point to a considerable increase in oil prices."

He described the recently concluded OPEC meeting in Caracas as one of the most successful OPEC conferences held during the past 4 years despite the lack of agreement on a unified oil price.

He added that the OPEC countries "have shown flexibility which would encourage one to believe that the creation of a unified price system under the varying conditions on the markets is still possible."

One of the most important achievements of the OPEC conference in Caracas, held during the third week of December, he said, was the call to the oil-producing countries to rationalize oil and energy consumption in general. He added that the conference felt "that it was illogical to ask the consuming countries to rationalize their oil consumption while consumption in the oil-producing countries was increasing at the rate of 15 percent annually."

Shaykh 'Ali stressed the need for the industrialized oil-importing countries to reduce their oil consumption and said that if they succeed in doing so, their action will have a great effect in avoiding expected energy crises. However, he said, this will not prevent the steady increase in oil prices.

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES IRAN'S DECISION TO MEET WITH WALDHEIM

LD311314 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 31 December--An official Kuwaiti source today described Iran's agreement to welcome UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim as a positive gesture toward solving the Iranian-U.S. crisis. The source added that Dr Waldheim's visit to Tehran will open positive international dialog.

The course also said the United Nation's participation, in the person of its secretary general, in the question of the U.S. hostages detained in Tehran will lead to an acceptable solution to the 2-month-old crisis.

Kuwait's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir last Saturday called for Dr Waldheim to take such an initiative without waiting for a resolution from the UN Security Council.

OMAN

GOVERNMENT DENOUNCES SOVIET MILITARY INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

JN311312 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1155 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 31 December--The Sultanate of Oman has denounced the Soviet military invasion of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

A statement issued here today by the Omani Foreign Ministry says that such aggression is a blatant violation of the UN Charter and Afghanistan's neutrality and threatens world security and peace.

In the statement the Foreign Ministry calls for the withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Afghanistan and welcomes world denunciation of the Soviet aggression.

The statement cites the efforts which the sultanate is exerting to coordinate with friendly states in order to confront the threats that will result fro the Soviet military invasion of the region.

PDRY

ISMA'IL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM YAR COUNTERPART

LD281632 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium this morning received brother Lt Col Husayn Ad-Daf'i, member of the Consultative Council and unity affairs adviser to the president for the northern part of the homeland.

At the meeting brother Ad-Daf'i conveyed a verbal message to brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il from his brother, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the northern part of the homeland, concerning coordination between the two parts and tasks of the unity committees.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER ANNOUNCES CRUDE OIL PRICE FREEZE IN 1980

JN011224 Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 1 January--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has announced that the decision Qatar recently adopted to amend the prices of its crude oil, is Qatar's national and international right.

The finance and oil minister expressed astonishment at and denounced the criticisms which were directed against Qatar following its decision to protect its interests and wealth.

In an interview with the magazine AN-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, the finance and oil minister said: We have adopted our decision on the basis of the posted price, which is 24 dollars per barrel. To this we added the customary increase which is adopted when changing the price of our oil and which is estimated at 3 dollars. Thus, the price of Qatari oil has become 27 dollars.

In answer to a question on future oil prices, the finance and oil minister said he does not like to discuss probabilities, adding that Qatar will freeze the price of its crude oil during 1980.

It is noteworthy that the finance and oil minister added in the course of the interview and in answer to the same question: [word indistinct] if no exceptional circumstances take place, which might make it imperative to reconsider these prices.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani stated that the Qatari oil production level will be maintained during 1980.

In answer to a question on Algeria's proposal to establish a bank to support the Third World states, the finance and oil minister expressed his backing for such a proposal, saying: It is our duty and human responsibility to grant aid to this bank, which is the reason why we supported the idea of increasing the capital of the OPEC special fund [word indistinct] to support the developing states.

SAUDI ARABIA

REACTION TO SOVIET ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN REPORTED

Cabinet Condemnation

LD312054 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a meeting at 1900 today chaired by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent and deputy prime minister. The meeting ended at 2100. Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information said the cabinet reviewed oil prices and was appraised of the Caracas OPEC conference results. The cabinet heard a report on the conference from Hisham Nazir, planning minister and acting minister of petroleum and mineral affairs.

The cabinet stressed that the Saudi Kingdom had already made its attitude known in this connection. It also underlined the importance of maintaining just and balanced prices for oil while at the same time preserving the rights of our country. The cabinet warned against the danger of a price war and underlined the need to caution certain companies reaping fantastic profits at the expense of both producers and consumers.

Minister Yamani added that at the beginning of the meeting the cabinet reviewed the situation prevailing in Afghanistan and the attitude of various states. The cabinet expressed anxiety at the gravity of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan which conflicted with international principles and conventions and UN resolutions. The cabinet explained that the intervention was regarded as a violation of the rights of the Afghan people. The minister said the cabinet called on the Islamic and Arab states to adopt a united attitude toward this blatant intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Riyadh Radio Commentary

LD312306 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Excerpt] For the third consecutive day the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces and the arrival of reinforcements to strengthen the Soviet military presence continues to occupy a prominent place among the world's important events. Worldwide condemnation is mounting in reaction to this step by the Soviet Union which constitutes a serious violation of the UN Charter and leaves one with the undoubted impression that, as the London FINANCIAL TIMES says, the Soviet Union is prepared to secure what it wants by the use of force.

The Soviet attitude on Afghanistan reminds the world of the 1968 armed march on Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union, which occurred without a decisive response from the international community in conditions, observers believe, probably dictated by the superpowers' spheres-of-influence game. In the absence of a decisive response against the Soviet Union, Moscow now returns to play the same game in Afghanistan in conditions of so-called detente between the two superpowers. This so-called detente has been violated by the USSR and, as results appear to favor the USSR, the stand of opponents of detente has become stronger.

AL-MADINAH Comment

LD310946 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0635 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 31 December--The newspaper AL-MADINAH today calls on the Islamic world to realize the dimensions of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and to act in a manner which will serve the interests of the Islamic peoples and homelands.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom and many other Arab, Muslim and foreign countries have denounced this open invasion of Afghanistan because such methods will turn the world into a jungle if the international community keeps silent, the paper adds.

The paper denounces the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the way the Soviets deal with the peoples they have subjected to their hegemony. It also denounces the atrocities the Soviet Union has been committing and its usurpation of the rights and freedoms of people without paying attention to the world denunciation of its crimes.

It adds that the pressures the Afghan people are suffering following the invasion of their country by the Soviets were previously experienced by other Islamic countries which, since the Bolshevik revolution, have become part of the Soviet empire by the methods of suppression, steel and fire.

Papers Urge Action

LD310954 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0640 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 31 December--The newspaper AL-BILAD today calls for the holding of an Islamic summit conference following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to draw up a plan to counter the Soviet threat, which is primarily aimed against the faith of the Islamic nation and peoples.

The paper calls on the countries of the Western world to take practical steps to check the arrogance of force which the USSR has been pursuing since 1973, within the framework of the traditional relations between the Western countries and the countries of the area.

What has taken place in Afghanistan, it adds, could take place in any neighboring country, and the latest Soviet action in Afghanistan might not be the last.

The newspaper AN-NADWAH writes that efforts must be made to check all attempts to harm the independence of the Islamic countries of Asia and encroach on their rights and wealth and impose subservience on their states and peoples.

The paper says that cohesion among the brothers is the only way of deliverance so that the area will remain strong and free and independence and keep out of the sphere of international conflict and also keep its wealth for its peoples.

Further Press Comment

JN010809 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0742 GMT 1 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 1 January--Two Saudi papers today called on the Islamic states to adopt a serious and practical material, military and moral reaction against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In a commentary, the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH calls on the foreign and economy ministers of Arab and Islamic states to join the Islamic conference scheduled to be held in the Malaysian capital at the end of this month on the level of Awqaf and religious affairs minister, so as to adopt a decisive Muslim stand against the communist aggression against Afghanistan.

AL-JAZIRAH says that the Kremlin's decision to keep the Soviet forces in Afghanistan and supply them with all kinds of heavy weapons is intended to liquidate the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, uproot Islam from the country and tie Afghanistan to the other communist states.

The newspaper AR-RIYADH stresses that this intervention is a new strategy representing Soviet policy which comes in the wake of a slakening and wavering in U.S. policy resulting from the internal "structure in the United States," which is still suffering from Vietnam and Watergate.

The paper calls for serious military and moral action. AR-RIYADH says: Denunciations and threats will not change anything. The adoption of preplanned and firm stands toward events and supporting these stands materially, militarily and morally is not an alternative, but the only choice.

AR-RIYADH calls for the adoption of clear-cut stands that are not open to misinterpretations or doubts in the face of the Soviet intervention, which the paper says is a new turning point in the Kremlin's "expansionist" policy, and is not a test of the world, as some people believe.

KING KHALID ACCEPTS MECCA DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S RESIGNATION

LD311910 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] King Khalid has accepted the resignation of Prince Fawwaz ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, governor of Mecca district, who resigned for health reasons.

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES MEDIATION BETWEEN LIBYA, PLO

LD310948 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 31 December--Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has denied that his visit to Libya was aimed at mediation between Libya and the PLO.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published today, Prince Sa'ud said that the visit was aimed at strengthening and developing relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Libya for the good of the two fraternal peoples, the Saudis and the Libyans.

He added that his visit to Libya, which took place last week, falls within the framework of constant coordination and consultations between the kingdom and its sister Arab states, in accordance with the joint Arab action plan.

Asked if there was any plan for holding a conference of Arab Gulf foreign ministers, the prince said he does not discount such a meeting among those Arab Gulf countries which attended the At-Ta'if conference toward the end of the Hegira Century to discuss their common concerns and ambitions and to protect their interests.

The prince also said the Saudi Arabian Kingdom does not contemplate establishing any relations with communist countries, and all reports about this are completely baseless.

UAE

AL-ITTIHAD EXHORTS MUSLIM WORLD TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN

JN310712 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 December--Today's papers comment on the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, which has aroused the indignation of the entire Muslim world. The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD calls on the Islamic world to firmly stand alongside the oppressed Afghan people, whose most basic human rights are being violated. The text of the paper's editorial is as follows:

The UAE's denunciation of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and the UAE's proclamation that this blatant intervention prevents this Muslim nation from exercising its basic right to choose the rule that suits it and that agrees with its spiritual values came amid a wave of strong indignation--a wave which comprised the entire Muslim world--in solidarity with this nation, which a big power like the Soviet Union wants to deprive of peace and security.

The Soviet Union is using the pretext of confronting so-called foreign aggression against Afghanistan. It does not, however, define this aggression or specify its source. Since this aggression is unidentified, we would expect this Soviet intervention to continue, for Moscow has announced that it will withdraw its troops as soon as the aggression ends. Since nobody knows when this aggression referred to by Moscow began, nobody knows when it will end.

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has aroused the indignation of the world, which calls for the individual's freedom to exercise his basic rights. Some states may have special reasons for condemning the Soviet intervention from a strategic, political and humanitarian viewpoint. However, in addition to these reasons, the Islamic world is bound by the dictates of Islamic brotherhood to firmly stand alongside its brethren in Afghanistan.

HEIR APPARENT MEETS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN311450 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 31 December--His Highness Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, has congratulated the Palestinian revolution on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

This took place this morning during the heir apparent's meeting with PLO representative to the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad.

The current Arab situation in general and relations between the UAE and PLO in particular were discussed during the meeting.

Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan said that the Palestinian revolution's achievements during the past period deserves appreciation and pride, since it has been able to embody the Palestinian people's aspirations and hopes to liberate their homeland, bolster steadfastness in the occupied territories and champion Palestinian rights in the international community.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY following the meeting, Ribhi 'Awad said that he asked the heir apparent to convey to the UAE president Yasir 'Arafat's and the Palestinian leadership's greetings and appreciation for the UAE's support on the Palestinian issue.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

JN302040 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Today Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, received the Soviet delegation led by Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy minister of justice and chairman of the Soviet-Yemen Friendship Society, on the occasion of the delegation's current visit to YAR.

Delegation Leaves

JN311733 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] A Soviet delegation led by Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy minister of justice and chairman of the Soviet-Yemen Friendship Society, left San'a' this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to the YAR.

During the visit, the Soviet official held talks with justice, information and culture ministry officials on bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent before his departure, Sukharev expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks he held with YAR officials which had as their purpose the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries.

AS-SADAT DISCUSSES AFGHANISTAN, GULF STATES

NC010745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has stressed that the battle for energy reserves has indeed begun in the Middle East. He added that the situation in the area is deteriorating. In an interview granted to U.S. television commentator Walter Cronkite, published by the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, President as-Sadat said that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has shaken the present regimes in the Gulf area, from Kuwait to the United Arab Emirates.

In his interview, the president warned that there will be an uprising in the Gulf area because the system applied in the states there is wrong, like that in Iran now. The president declared that he would condemn the United States if it used force to occupy Iran, but he emphasized that he sould support the United States if it used military force to restore the balance which has been upset and to save the lives of the U.S. hostages.

The president also affirmed that 1980 will be a decisive year, influencing events for a long time to come--a period which may be described as the post-Iran period. He said that he will do his best for the cause of Palestinian autonomy. He reaffirmed that he insists that Jerusalem should remain united and should not be divided again.

Following is the text of U.S. commentator Cronkite's interview with President Anwar as-Sadat, shown on the CBS television network last night:

The president declared that the geopolitical situation in the Middle East was deteriorating. He said: If we first look at what is now happening in Afghanistan, where the Soviet Union has not denied that its forces participated in the latest military coup there, we will see that what has taken place there is causing alarm. We have condemned the Soviet invasion and so have all the peace-loving nations. The invasion arouses fear among those living in the Gulf area and makes their position tenuous--from Kuwait to the UAE. This is why I can say that the battle for the energy reserves of this area has indeed begun.

The president added: Let me tell you that I would condemn the United States if it used military force to occupy Iran. However, if you used military force to restore the balance which has been shaken there and to rescue the U.S. hostages then I would support you.

Cronkite asked the president: Do you recommend this course? The president answered: Yes, for the rescue of the hostages, yes.

The president added: Everyone in that region is wholeheartedly condemning Khomeyni. I am not the only one condemning this mentally unbalanced man. However, they cannot say it openly, they all want your protection and they want you to help them choose their own way of life. They all want you to be present in the region, but none of them dares to raise his voice now because at this moment the Soviet Union has assumed complete freedom of movement and is using some people as tools. The Gulf states are afraid of coming under the fierce attack of these tools.

On the question of Palestinian autonomy, the president said: I will do my best for this cause. It is not just the question of full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza. There is also the question of Jerusalem. If our views on these issues prove to be close [as received], then I will insist that Jerusalem should remain united and that it should not be divided again.

Cronkite again asked President as-Sadat about Khomeyni and whether he really represented Islam and the Muslims. The president replied: What Khomeyni is doing has absolutely nothing to do with Islam. Every Muslim must condemn him openly.

He added: They are denouncing him privately, but they must do so publicly because he is a mad man.

The president also said: I wonder if you are aware of the fact that the battle for oil and energy--which is a battle for the rescue of Western civilization--has already started. What are you going to do about Iran? Are you going to impose some kind of economic boycott or blockade, or even take military action to free the hostages, or do anything else to influence the oil battle in the Gulf oil states?

President as-Sadat continued: The battle has begun and whatever you do, what has happened in Iran will be a decisive factor in history. When I said that 1980 will be a decisive year, I did not mean that it would be decisive only for the 80's but will influence events for a long time to come. You will call it the post-Iran period.

He added: There will be an uprising in the Gulf states because the system in those states is wrong, just like the system in Iran. There are families [ruling] there, and there is oil, as Khomeyni said in his description of the Gulf leaders he was attacking. He said that they would face the same fate as the shah because the problem in Iran was one of family and oil.

The president added: In Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and in all the Gulf, you see families and you see oil. I am not asking the United States to support leaders against their people, but I am asking you to support these people and to help them choose their own way of life. All the Arab peoples of the Gulf, and elsewhere, are your friends.

GHALI STATEMENT ON AUTONOMY, AFGHANISTAN

NC020655 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt during 1980 will exert all efforts to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights as stipulated in the Camp David agreements. In a statement to our reporter, Dr Ghali said Egypt is seeking to achieve full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to hold the elections in May. Concerning Egypt's position on Jerusalem, Dr Ghali said Egypt has a clear stand: Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the West Bank and must come under Arab sovereignty. This stand was affirmed in a letter President as-Sadat sent to U.S. President Carter following the signing of the Camp David agreements.

Concerning the upcoming summit meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Aswan next week, Dr Ghali said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has submitted a number of initiatives to President as-Sadat to activate and advance the autonomy negotiations so that they may produce the desired results. President as-Sadat will choose those initiatives that he believes will bring about full autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Concerning Egypt's attitude toward Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Dr Ghali said Egypt has held contacts with the nonalined and Islamic states in order to face the danger of Soviet intervention, which Egypt has condemned.

Concluding his statement, he said that Egypt will hold contacts with the African states to consolidate cooperation among them and confront the cold war threatening the continent, as well as African unity and the nonalined principles.

ASSEMBLY ISSUES RESOLUTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN, HOSTAGES

NC311240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 31 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 December--The Egyptian People's Assembly has called for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and for an end to the bloodletting by the Soviet forces against the Muslim peoples of Afghanistan.

The assembly denounced all attempts aimed at imposing a Marxist regime upon the Afghans by force and called for noninterference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan, leaving the Afghan people free to determine their future and choose the form of government they desire without pressure.

In a resolution adopted at this morning's session under the chairmanship of Dr Sufi Abu Talib, the Egyptian People's Assembly called on all Islamic peoples and the nonalined states to follow up the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and the Soviet attempts to swallow up Afghanistan. The assembly urged the peoples to adopt a strong solid stand against Soviet interference in Afghanistan and to unite to stop the troubles in this Islamic and nonalined state.

The assembly also decided to convey this resolution to all friendly parliaments, requesting them to adopt positive measures in support of the Afghan people in their ordeal to most quickly check the Soviet interference.

The People's Assembly also called for implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and the International Court of Justice order for the immediate release of the American hostages in Tehran.

The assembly also called for continued wisdom in handling the situation to avoid further bloodshed. The assembly called on all states and international organizations to exert further efforts for the immediate release of the hostages by peaceful means.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly met last night under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to study developments in Afghanistan and the direct Soviet interference propping up some communist elements in power in Afghanistan.

The committee also discussed the situation in Iran where Iranian students continue to detain American hostages--the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran--in violation of international laws on diplomatic protection and immunity and as well as Islamic laws, which disapprove of such methods.

The committee presented its report to the assembly this morning, which was approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF RHODESIA ENDED

NC011334 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to end its economic boycott imposed on the Rhodesian racist regime. A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry said that the decision had been taken following the 21 December UN Security Council resolution lifting economic sanctions and the boycott imposed on Rhodesia as a result of the London agreement, which put an end to the racist regime and opens the way to installing African majority rule.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY, MEDIA ROLE

JN311801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 31 December--President Saddam Husayn has reiterated that Iraq's sole concern is the will of the Arab nation and the honor of the Iraqi people and their potentialities.

At his meeting today with the editors in chief and the editors of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH and ALIF BA' magazine, President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq is a target for its enemies because of its genuine independence and because it is free of all forms of subservience.

On Iraq's foreign policy, President Saddam Husayn said: We deal with the superpowers on equal footing. We are drawing a big image for Iraq and we want our country to achieve its proper weight based on our estimation that Iraq is as great as China, as great as the Soviet Union and as great as the United States. We must look at life from each angle that we can change according to the theory of the Ba'th Party.

Addressing the meeting, President Saddam Husayn stressed that the revolution is eager for intellectuals and men of information to occupy their proper positions in the information process and in a manner that will consolidate their creative work and contribute to society's progress and its escalated revolutionary march. The president added that history normally records for the leader, the artist and the thinker more than it does for traders and capitalists.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN PRESIDES OVER CABINET SESSION

JN291622 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 December--The cabinet held a lengthy meeting here today under President Saddam Husayn to discuss Iraq's 1980 imports program. Appropriations for this program amount to 3,971,669 Iraqi dinars, the equivalent of $13 billion, a 50 percent increase over this year's import appropriations.

In a speech he delivered at the meeting, President Saddam Husayn stated that socialism is not a burden but a road that leads to happiness, an instrument for construction and progress and a weapon to confront enemies and opponents, including enemies outside the country.

President Saddam Husayn added that any search for a formula to achieve man's happiness will remain futile if not based on the belief that socialism is the road to happiness.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that socialism ends exploitation, provides the people with opportunities and promotes qualitative and quantitative production. He said: We must assess life as it is and not as we wish it to be.

President Saddam Husayn added: We have to struggle to achieve our aspirations. Socialism is a means to increase and improve production to meet man's changing tastes and increasing needs.

At the start of the cabinet session, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, reviewed the guidelines for the 1980 import program.

The 4 and ½ hour meeting was attended by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; Comrade Badr ad-Din Mudaththir, Ba'th Party National Command member; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; RCC members and ministers; under secretaries; editors in chief of local newspapers; and heads of information departments.

COMMUNIST LEADER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO UK PAPER

LD281123 London MORNING STAR in English 28 Dec 79 p 2 LD

[Dave Lloyd interview with Iraqi Communist Party First Secretary 'Aziz Muhammad; place, date not given]

[Text] The recent conference of the one-million-strong National Union of Students ratified its executive's decision to de-recognise the National Union of Iraqi Students, which it regarded as a front for the ruling Ba'thist Party's activities against non-Ba'thist Iraqi students living in Britain.

The NUS leadership had decided on de-recognition during the summer in response to a spate of violent attacks by Ba'thist agents on Iraqis studying at British colleges. Effectively the governing Ba'th Party had been trying to impose the reign of violence and intimidation it had been carrying out in Iraq on individuals studying abroad, including Britain.

As a recent article in the MORNING STAR has already pointed out, daily existence in Iraq has become a mixture of assassinations, assaults and torture.

It would seem to be a bleak and hopeless situation for those who seek to oppose the ruling elite there.

One man who looks beyond the many difficulties of the present is 'Aziz Muhammad, first secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party.

He is firmly optimistic about the future because of the potential he sees as existing for the building up of a broad opposition able to make advances aimed at returning Iraq to democracy.

"The major priority is to end the dominance of the ruling Ba'th Party, thereby creating a climate for the freedom of activity of trade unions, political groups and religious organisations," he says.

In July, a number of purges and splits occurred in the hierarchy of the Ba'th leadership, and Mr Muhammad sees this as an indication that all is not well with the morale of those who govern Iraq with an iron fist.

Mr Muhammad stresses the breadth of the developing movement seeking an end to Ba'th rule. The opposition includes Arabs, Kurds and religious groups.

The Iraqi Communist Party believes that the question of self-determination for the Kurdish people is a central issue for significant advance toward democracy.

Attacks on democratic rights have created big gaps between Arabs and Kurds, and autonomy for the latter is seen as part of the rebuilding process.

"We take the position in our party which is based on Lenin's principle of the rights of nations. It is on this basis that we seek genuine autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan," says Mr Muhammad.

One of the major targets of Ba'th repression has been the education system.

The attacks on Iraqi students studying abroad are sinister in themselves, but Mr Muhammad points out that this is only one element in a concerted exercise of mind control.

Members of teaching unions in Iraq are forced to sign pledges of loyalty to the Ba'th Party and school children are encouraged to inform on their relatives, thus "poisoning family life."

This "distortion of humanity," as Mr Muhammad terms it, "must be transformed into a system of learning which teaches positive values and creates new opportunities for young people to realise their full potential."

On this aspect he feels that young people can be won to play an important role in the anti-Ba'th alliance.

Turning to the economic situation in Iraq, Mr Muhammad says that the eleven years of Ba'th rule have witnessed the strengthening of relations with the multi-national companies.

Their contribution to the economy was more than 90 per cent in the year 1977-78.

Trade relations with Third World and socialist countries are a minimum, and Mr Muhammad sees the need to free the Iraqi economy from the connections with the International Monetary Fund.

Part of such a shift in trade relations will involve activating and extending links with the non-aligned countries, Arab and socialist worlds.

Mr Muhammad believes that it would also be possible to secure more equitable relations with some of the capitalist countries and this will create better conditions for development.

When questioned about the role of religious groups in the Iraqi opposition, Mr Muhammad is keen to point out that important distinctions do exist between the situation in Iraq and in Iran.

He stressed that organised revolutionary influences existed, with the Communist Party playing a recognised and central role. The religious movement had to be seen in that context. It was in fact political.

Holy feasts and festivals have become centres for opposition activity, and this indicates one of the ways that resistance is being organised.

The major challenge in the immediature future, in Mr Muhammad's view, is to build on all this, to "mobilise the people and all forces in a Democratic National Front...to ensure a democratic alternative to the present dictatorship."

That is the task which the Communist Party now sees as the urgent necessity facing it and the whole progressive movement in Iraq.

AD-DUSTUR: ARAB, WESTERN OPPOSITION TO AFGHAN INTERVENTION

JN020732 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Jan 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What After Afghanistan?" AD-DUSTUR writes in its editorial: While Soviet forces in Afghanistan are being reinforced following the recent coup, the cries of protest and denunciation from Western, Arab and Islamic states are increasing.

Although the stand of the West, the Arabs and the Muslims on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan may be identical in form, it is completely different in its premises. The West, led by the United States, denounces the Soviet intervention from a weak moral stand and from the premise of the current conflict with the Soviet Union over control of the Third World. Our evidence for this is that the West remained silent when similar invasions and interventions took place and when it was in its interest to remain silent. It remained silent in the face of the Israeli conquest of the territory of three Arab states, a conquest that resulted in an occupation that continues to this day in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem and parts of Sinai. The West remained silent in the face of Tanzania's invasion of Uganda during the rule of former President Idi Amin.

The paper adds: On what grounds does the West oppose the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan today? The Arab and Muslim states condemn the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan just as they have condemned the invasion of Uganda and as they condemn to this day Israeli occupation of Arab territory. Thus, their stand stems from indisputably principled and moral premises, solid premises whose legality cannot be contested.

The most serious thing about the Soviet measures in Afghanistan is that they give the necessary justification and cover for U.S. military action in Iran. AD-DUSTUR asks: How can the Soviet Union in the future condemn any U.S. intervention in Iran as long as its forces are stationed in a neighboring country: Afghanistan?

AD-DUSTUR says: The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in fact constitutes a serious precedent whose repercussions will affect international relations. If Washington and the West are now calling for woe and destruction for the Russians so as to have the pretext to carry out similar actions in other states in the area, acting in accordance with the concept of domination, the exercise of influence and the protection of imperialist interests, then the Arab, Muslim and Third World states view the Soviet intervention from the premise of concern for their sovereignty and for world peace and of preventing the superpowers from turning the territory of these states into an arena for their conflict, whose cost would be sustained by the small countries at the expense of their dignity and independence.

In conclusion, AD-DUSTUR says: The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has changed the picture in West Asia and has opened in the entire area doors from which the winds of cold war have blown once again. Woe to the peoples of this area if the temperature of this wind rises and the expected military confrontation between the giants should take place there.

TISHRIN: U.S. MAY COMMIT 'FOOLISH ACT' TO SAVE FACE

JN300738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Dec 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Preparedness Is Required," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It seems that successive events in Afghanistan, Iran and in other areas of the world have placed Washington in an unenviable position. Washington has shown noticeable hesitation, obscured vision, and obvious confusion and contradictory positions.

This week, in particular, was full of examples highlighting the U.S. administration's present confusion. The U.S. position toward the world is the same. It seeks to impose its hegemony on the world to protect its interests, to impose agent regimes and to conspire against patriotic regimes and deny them their legitimate rights.

Perhaps we will not be accused of pessimism if we predict that the deteriorating U.S. situation will make the U.S. administration commit a foolish act to save face and to preserve some of the respect it still enjoys. We do not say this to scare anybody, but no one confronts imperialism if he fears it or is frightened by its might, and Iran, which is the main target of Washington's threats, has repeatedly stated that it does not fear U.S. aggression in case it ever takes place. The revolutionaries will make Iran a big cemetery for the aggressors.

We sincerely hope that our Arab nation remains alert and prepared. We should be well prepared to counter any foolish act that Washington--which has failed in the Middle East--might carry out.

Observers unanimously agree that such a foolish act is possible. The place where it will be committed will not change the fact that it will directly influence our area, particularly because Washington has two ardent allies--Israel and the Egyptian regime--which blindly follow its instructions. If we take into consideration the fact that these two agents have allied themselves to serve imperialist interests in our area, to consolidate Israeli occupation of our land and to replace the shah--who has been dismissed from service--as policeman in the area, it is self-evident that we shall be largely affected by this foolish act, particularly since Brzezinski has reiterated that West Europe, the Middle East and the Far East are three central areas whose security depend on one another and that each of them is directly important to the security of the other two.

Brzezinski's statements about the legitimate reawakening of the Islamic world following hundreds of years of slumber, his exclusion of the possibility that the Islamic reawakening is automatically hostile to the United States because there is another party--a party which has nothing in common with Islam--more worthy of this hostility and other statements were made to flatter the Iranian Revolution and the Muslims. These statements, however, were made at the time President Carter was meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Weizman to discuss ways to strengthen Israel's economy, consolidate its military potential and achieve the results which made Weizman ask almighty God to bring success to Carter during the Presidential elections.

If the U.S. President and his adviser are thus hesitant and confused and if they have forgotten that the hostility of the Arabs and Muslims toward the United States is a direct and main result of the U.S. position toward their Israeli enemy, would it not be possible for them to forget for the thousandth time under the strongheaded imperialist desire to strike at all the hands that seek to shake off imperialist hegemony and control, that another foolish act will wipe out the remaining part of the respect the United States is endeavoring to keep?

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTEDLY TO BE NEW PRIME MINISTER

JN311446 Doha QNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 31 December--The weekly paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT states today that it has been decided to appoint Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, Syrian chief of staff, as member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command prior to his appointment as Syrian prime minister in the cabinet reshuffle which is expected to be announced soon in Syria.

The paper says that the expected reshuffle in the Syrian Government will include the defense minister's post which is currently held by Gen Mustafa Talas, who is expected to be transferred to the diplomatic corps.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CONVEYS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN282130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Dec 79 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Soviet ambassador in Damascus at noon today.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed a message to Foreign Minister Khaddam addressed to comrade leader President Hafiz al-Asad from the Soviet leadership.

VOL REPORTS FIVE EXECUTED IN SYRIA WITHOUT TRIALS

NC311306 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 31 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpt] Our correspondents in Syria report that five participants in the Aleppo massacre were executed last Wednesday. Four were executed by hanging and the fifth by a firing squad in the central prison in Damascus. Husayn Abbu, one of the leaders of the Aleppo massacre, was among those executed.

The executions were carried out on the personal orders of Rif-'at al-Asad, brother of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This is the first time executions have taken place without prior trial.

LIBYA

PALESTINIANS ISSUE STATEMENT ON PLO-LIBYAN RELATIONS

LD301505 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 30 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Dec, JANA--Leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement held a press conference yesterday at Al-Shati Hotel in Tripoli. At the beginning of the conference, the following statement was read:

"Within the framework of the natural and strategic alliance between the Great 1 September Revolution and the Palestinian revolution, sensing the patriotic responsibility and realizing the nature of the Arab nation's struggle with its enemies who include imperialists Zionists, reactionary and capitulationist forces, the following general secretaries of the Palestinian organizations:

Ahmed Jabril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Front for Popular Struggle; and Majid Muhsin, secretary of As-Sa'iqah organization in Lebanon, paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah between 25 and 29 December 1979.

The delegation held several meetings with the Great 1 September Revolution's leadership, and conferred with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Discussions during these meetings centered on the Palestinian cause, the Arab situation in all its dimensions, the position taken by Arab and Palestinian revolutionary forces and methods of developing their capabilities so as to enhance their effectiveness in confronting the conspiracy aimed at disuniting our nation, the role of revolutionary and progressive forces in agitating the Arab masses toward waging the armed struggle for liberation and return to the usurped homeland.

Points of view converged regarding the use of armed struggle and a long-stretched popular liberation war as the only correct means of liberating Palestine. Both sides believe that these methods and increased fedayeen operations from all fronts should be the Arab revolution's strategy in general, and the Palestinian revolution's in particular.

In spite of the clarity of various repercussions and stages of the conspiracy waged against the Arab nation, revolutionary and progressive forces in the Arab world are called upon to concert all efforts for foiling the Stable David conspiracy, the treasonous As-Sadat-Israel treaty, and the self-rule conspiracy, because these represent some of the stages of the grand conspiracy which the enemies of our nation are trying to impose on us. Departing from the communique issued by the factions of the Palestinian revolution and the leadership of the Great 1 September Revolution released on 15 June 1979 and in affirmation of the right and determination of the Palestinian Arab people to armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine, and in establishing the call for the liberation and initiative included in the speech of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution on the occasion of the festival of solidarity with Palestine on 29 November 1979, and in a bid to escalate the Palestinian armed struggle, the following has been agreed:

1. The armed struggle is to be considered the path which leads to the liberation of Palestine;

2. It is necessary to launch fedayeen operations from all Arab fronts and to enable the Palestinian revolution to be present in Jordan with its armed bases (?to escalate) the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. The fedayeen operations should not be stopped, whether in southern Lebanon or any other front, as the Palestinian gun derives its legitimacy from the revolution and the national and revolutionary right of fighting from any Arab area.

3. Any attempt to divert the Palestinian armed revolution to a political movement should be rejected. Any belief that Palestine could be liberated through diplomatic efforts alone is false;

4. Commando operations should be directed to the (?arteries) that nourish the Zionist enemy;

5. The Palestinian revolution should not be linked to treasonous, reactionary and capitulatory Arab political policies. The Palestinian revolution is in need of nothing except its legitimacy and the legitimacy of its charter.

6. Confirmation of the necessity of using all weapons in the battle against the enemy, especially the (?military) weapon. If, on the other hand, this weapon is not employed in the battle, it should be destroyed lest it be transformed to a pliable tool which could readily be used by the enemy.

7. Absolute faith in the masses and striving to liberate them and mobilise their capabilities for liberation and the revolution. Also, the uplifting of the Arab and Palestinian masses from the state of injustice in which they might exist so that they are able to carry out an active role in countering their enemies. Furthermore, faith in the gaining of freedom by the Arab masses is a basic requirement for carrying out their freedom-fighting role. The true tragedy of the Arab nation is the lack of any effective presence of the Arab masses. No struggle can be carried out in their name because these masses are the real driving force for liberation. Any serious effort to draw a strategy for patriotic confrontation cannot fail to take heed of this point.

8. The alliance between the Great 1 September Revolution and the Palestinian revolution is natural, strategic and genuine. It must continue, as the Great 1 September Revolution is the main and true supporter of the Palestinian revolution.

9. The fabrication of any dispute with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah does not serve the Palestinian cause and would be considered as capitulatory.

10. The political committee of the PLO in the Jamahiriyah will be formed from the factions of the Palestinian revolution.

11. The unity of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands and beyond should be maintained within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

12. The role of the front of steadfastness and confrontation is important, and it will be invited to hold a summit conference to confront the new stages of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy.

13. The backing of Syria's steadfastness against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary enemies.

14. The backing of Lebanon's patriotic and progressive movements, because these forces are the [words indistinct] true expression, and are strategic allies of the Palestinian revolution. Also, affirmation of the importance of southern Lebanon's steadfastness and the need to back this region so that it may be able to withstand the conspiracy and liquidate the border enclave of Sa'd Haddad.

15. The Libyan and Palestinian revolutions' solidarity with the Iranian Revolution and a general appeal to Arab and Islamic masses and all progressive forces to join in solidarity against American imperialism which is attempting to impose an economic blockade and stifle the people of Iran.

16. The two revolutions salute all Islamic, African, Third World and socialist countries who stand resolutely against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy and the "Stable David" accords.

The leaders of the Palestinian resistance affirmed in their press conference that the Jamahiriyah has been supporting the Palestinian revolution with funds and arms and has been a basic supporter against hostile designs and attempts at liquidation.

They also affirmed that it is the duty of the Palestinian people and their revolution and the nationalist forces in Lebanon to acknowledge their gratitude notwithstanding the fact that it is a national duty of the Libyan Arab people and their leadership to back them. With regard to the allegations that the PLO's office in Tripoli was closed and surrounded, the leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement said that these allegations are groundless. They affirmed that the organization's office is carrying out its full functions towards Palestinian people and has not and will not be touched as long as the Great 1 September Revolution's stands towards the Palestinian people are clear. They said that it would have been better, instead of circulating these allegations, if other Arab countries were denounced strongly for not allowing the opening of PLO offices on their territories until now. A case in point is Saudi Arabia, which for the last fifteen years has refused the PLO permission to open an office on its territories. The Palestinian resistance leaders wonder why this position is not condemned and why matters are weighed in two different scales, one for Arab revolutionary forces and other for Arabs who support America.

Regarding the speech delivered by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to mark the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Palestinian resistance leaders said Arab and Libyan mass media organs are to blame for not conveying the full facts to the Arab people and world.

What was in fact conveyed, they said, were unintegrated excerpts of the speech. They added that, notwithstanding Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's standing in regard to the Palestinian revolution, they sensed a clearly revolutionary outlook in this speech tinged with pain regarding the present outlook of the Arab nation and Palestinian revolution.

They said the speech incorporated many important topics. What really drew our attention, they added, was Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's warning to the Palestinians to beware of the concerted Arab and international campaign which seeks to tame the revolution.

They said: "It transpires from this speech that Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi fully knows the devastating character of enmity harboured by foes of the Palestinian revolution. Therefore, his call to the Palestinian revolution to protect itself by incorporating the masses in its struggle.

The Palestinian resistance leaders added: "Why the campaign against this speech at a time when more dangerous anti-Palestinian pronunciations go without protest--for example, the Arab League's Secretary General Chedli Klibi officially asked the Palestine Liberation Organisation to recognise the Zionist enemy by pointedly remarking that the basic difference with As-Sadat is not the goal pursued but the method used in reaching it."

"We have also listened to the PLO's representative Ibrahim Sus bringing glad tidings of the organisation's taming." The Palestinian leaders said relations between revolutionaries are not based on rhetoric. They are, as in the case between the Great September and Palestinian revolution, based on a common fate and commitment of revolutionising the masses.

They said the struggle against enemies necessitates the solution of secondary and, mostly, imaginary disputes within the Arab revolutionary movement. We should, they added, divert all efforts to eradicate the basic contradiction which was embodied in Saudi Arabia's literal dragging of As-Sadat into the arms of American imperialism, the sponsoring by Morocco's King Hassan of various preparations for the final treasonous contacts with the enemy and their tragic repercussions, and the arrests carried out by King Husayn of hundreds of Palestinians, including members of the Palestine National Council.

The Palestinian resistance leaders called on all revolutionaries to raise their voices in unison against these events and work hard for the solution of any outstanding problems that might exist amongst revolutionary Arab forces.

They said the Great September Revolution is now carrying out a unique experiment in revolutionising the masses. They added: "We await the results of this experiment as we do of all human experience. How then could we not but learn from an experiment which emanates from the core of the Arab nation's reality?"

They said Colonel Muammar al- Qadhdhafi's speech, which was delivered to mark the (?international) for solidarity with Palestine, is a true expression of sorrow and pain regarding the nation's reality. They therefore called for a closer and more sincere examination of the speech.

The Palestinian leaders affirmed their belief in armed struggle as the sole and correct path for gaining recognition of Arab rights and liberating the usurped lands. All other methods of action are mere attempts to transform it from a revolutionary movement depending on armed struggle, to a mere political movement.

They said such a transformation will only be achieved at the expense of the Arab nation's vital principles and interests.

The Palestinian leaders denied that their visit to the Jamahiriyah is viewed as a gesture of reconciliation. They said the visit falls within the framework of continuous consultations between the Great 1 September and Palestinian revolutions, as confirmed the communique by the emergency meeting held last July between the leaderships of both revolutions.

They said the communique issued yesterday at the conclusion of the meeting between leaders of the Libyan Arab and Palestinian revolutions is the basis of the Palestine Liberation Organization's relationship with the Jamahiriyah.

The communique could also serve as the basis for relationships between the PLO and any Arab forces opposed to imperialism and Zionism. This sort of relation is derived from the freedom fighting heritage of the Great 1st of September and Palestinian revolutions.

MAURITANIA

LD311010 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0755 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 31 December--The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, has praised Saudi Arabian aid to development projects in Mauritania, saying that it has "helped us out of our economic crisis and enabled us to produce a 4-year plan for agricultural and industrial development."

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH published today, the Mauritanian minister praised relations between the kingdom and Mauritania, which he said are based on old religious and historical ties. He added that relations between his country and the kingdom are a good example to be followed by others.

Spekaing of his recent tour of Gulf countries, Minister Ahmedou Ould Abdallah said that it was aimed at affirming his country's desire to bolster relations with area countries, exchange views on common issues and enunciate Mauritania's present policy on the question of the Western Sahara.

He reiterated his country's support for the Arabism of Jerusalem, the Palestine people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO, the need for the return of the Palestinians to their homes and their right to self-determination.

He also reiterated his country's rejection of the Camp David agreements and denounced the so-called autonomy in part and whole.

The Mauritanian minister also said that the attitude of the Mauritanian Government toward the Middle East question and the conflict between Arabs and the Israeli enemy is no different from that of the rest of the Arab countries.

MOROCCO

NETHERLANDS' FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS VISIT

LD281340 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Dec 28 (MAP)--Christoph van der Klaauw, Dutch foreign affairs minister, arrived Thursday evening to Casablanca for a few days' visit to Morocco. In a statement to newsmen, Van der Klaauw indicated that "this is his first visit to Morocco, with which Holland undertakes excellent relations." He also said that he will have talks with Moroccan officials on bilateral relations and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Boucetta

LD281532 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Summary] Netherlands Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klaauw, who is now on an official visit to Morocco, began his contacts this morning by meeting members of his majesty's government. He was received by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and discussed the international political situation, tension inthe northwestern African region and bilateral relations. The Netherlands minister was also received by Minister of Commerce and Industry Azzedine Guessous. They discussed bilateral trade and economic relations.

Departs 29 Dec

LD291648 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister van der Klaauw left Rabat today after paying an official visit during which he conferred with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta on questions of common interest. Van der Klaauw stated before his departure that the visit was fruitful in spite of its short duration and that talks with the Moroccan authorities were frank and constructive and would be a new factor in strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields.

SUDAN

SSU CONDEMNS SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

JN311502 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 December--The Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] has condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The Union called on the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Afghan territory.

SSU controller Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Salih, in a statement addressed to the Sudanese people on the occasion of Sudan's 24th independence anniversary, said that the SSU condemns any intervention in the affairs of other nations. He added that the SSU supports the Muslim Afghans in their plight and calls on peace-loving and Muslim nations to support the Afghan peoples struggle to regain their freedom, independence and dignity.

Assembly Denounces Soviets

LD012121 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1750 GMT 1 Jan 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 1 (SUNA)--The Sudanese People's Assembly (parliament) today the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and called on the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from that country. The Assembly, while denouncing any foreign intervention in (?others') home affairs and stands beside Afghan Islamic people in their crisis, [as received] calls on all peace-loving nations in the Islamic countries to back the struggle of the Afghan people to gain freedom and dignity, said a statement issued by the house controller, Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Salih today to mark the 24th anniversary of Sudan's independence.

SOVIET ENVOY EXPLAINS SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

LD311854 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Text] Muzammil Salman Ghandur, deputy speaker for the People's Assembly, this morning received his excellency the Soviet ambassador to Khartoum. They discussed political and economic relations between Sudan and the USSR and cultural support given by the USSR to Sudan.

The deputy speaker of the People's Assembly expressed the concern of the government and people of Sudan about Soviet military intervention in fraternal Afghanistan. He said that the intervention had made Sudan, one of the Third World countries, concerned about the destiny of such countries in their relations with the two superpowers.

The Soviet ambassador explained that the Soviet intervention came at the request of the previous and present governments in Afghanistan. His excellency the Soviet ambassador also explained his country's position on the issue.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN311443 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 December--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, Sudanese vice president and minister of foreign affairs, received today PLO's representative in Khartoum Abu al-Haytham, who delivered a message addressed to President Numayri from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. The message is in reply to a letter from President Numayri to Yasir 'Arafat calling on him to overcome the dispute which erupted between Libya and the PLO.

President Numayri had also sent a similar letter to President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Meanwhile, Sudan's ambassadors to Beirut and Tripoli were instructed to resume their efforts to contain the Libyan-Palestinian differences.

TUNISIA

FITOURI SCORES SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

LD312104 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri has made a statement on the recent events in Afghanistan. He said: As always, Tunisia, a nonalined country, struggles for the right of countries and peoples to choose the form of government and regime suited to them. Without this, the independence and sovereignty of states would remain mere ink on paper and the UN Charter would have no value. The Tunisian Government, which is deeply concerned at the situation in Afghanistan, cannot remain indifferent toward the armed intervention in Afghanistan which is contrary to international law.

Tunisia, which is anxious to have continued good relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Government cannot recognize the legitimacy of any interference for whatever reason in the internal affairs of other states.

ISRAELI RADIO ON ANTI-SOVIET ACTS IN TEHRAN

TA010906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Fanatics in Tehran are now trying to do to the Soviet Union what they have already done to the United States: There is a shooting duel in the city's Soviet Embassy between demonstrators who managed to break into the building and Soviet security personnel. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus, following reports on the French radio, says that at least 15 people broke into the embassy and additional demonstrators have concentrated in the yard in front of the building. The Soviet flag was lowered and torn into pieces.

A stormy demonstration is now being staged in another part of Tehran against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It is led by the leaders of the Muslim rebellion from neighboring Afghanistan as well as Iranian religious leaders.

REPORTAGE ON WEIZMAN'S VISIT TO U.S., AID MISSION FAILURE

Israeli Circles, Weizman React

TA010536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The defense minister will report to the prime minister this morning about his talks with officials of the U.S. administration. An initial assessment will be made today about U.S. President Carter's decision not to increase aid to Israel. It is emphasized in Jerusalem that the decision was not received here with surprise and that all early signs pointed to this. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the assessments by political circles of the defense minister's mission in the United States.

[Begin Schiffer recording] The critics would say: The defense minister had created expectations in Israel. The praises he conferred on President Carter have proved useless and his mission unsuccessful. The U.S. administration has decided not to increase the rate of aid to Israel in the coming year, but to grant it a one-time loan of $200 million at a low interest in addition to the special $2.2 billion special aid to be given to Israel for the Sinai evacuation.

The defense minister was aware of the criticism that would be leveled after his trip, but he nevertheless took the risk and decided to leave for the United States in a last minute effort to try to influence President Carter's decision.

Mr Weizman told me last night that if he had not gone we would not have received even this additional $200-million loan. Relations between the countries are not measured only by dollars, the defense minister added. The defense minister believed he found in Washington an attentive ear and understanding for Israel's needs. In his talks with President Carter, Secretary of Defense Brown and Secretary of State Vance, regional problems were discussed. Mr Weizman will be able to report to the prime minister this morning that the U.S. administration is increasingly aware of the position of Israel as the most reliable strategic base in the region. The defense minister believes that the problems confronting the U.S. should be taken into consideration: President Carter is making efforts to cut the federal budget and is beset by tension in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

Sources in the prime minister's office said last night that the defense minister had made a sincere last-minute effort to get additional assistance.

Israel will receive the assistance given by the United States with gratitude. It seems, however, that the entire subject will be raised at the coming Cabinet meeting and it is to be assumed that the ministers will treat the achievements made by the defense minister during his U.S. trip with the known criteria: Some will praise his achievements against the background of U.S. difficulties while others will note that trip was pointless since the level of assistance would not have changed. [end recording]

Weizman Reaction to Criticism

TA020654 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Jan 80 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman, POST military correspondent]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman reported to Premier Menahem Begin yesterday on his visit to the United States and his failure to increase the amount of financial aid the United States will be allocating Israel in the coming fiscal year.

Weizman is reported to be extremely displeased with revelations that both Begin and Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz knew well in advance that Weizman's chances of increasing the aid package were practically nil. Reportedly both the Israeli ambassador to Washington and the U.S. ambassador in Israel had warned Begin before Weizman was sent that the mission was doomed to failure.

Weizman has come under heavy personal criticism, both in the press and among his Cabinet colleagues, and feels that he has been made a scapegoat. In addition, he is angered that his mission was undermined by a Jerusalem decision to build another 6,000 dwellings in the West Bank--announced on the same day that he was pleading Israel's case for more funds in the United States.

In his report yesterday Weizman told the premier that Israel's image in the United States has taken a severe battering and that Defense Secretary Harold Brown had complained to Weizman that Israel's settlement policy was a major cause for the erosion in American support for Israel.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance apparently reiterated Brown's comments and at the same time asked that Israel be more forthcoming in the stalled autonomy negotiating process. President Jimmy Carter also mentioned the peace talks in his interview with Weizman and told the minister that he would be in personal contact with Begin before next week's Aswan summit.

Despite criticism of Israeli policy by the senior U.S. officials, however, Weizman apparently believes the main reason for the American's refusal to increase the aid package is economic. Weizman explained to his aides that the United States is in a recession and that economic imperatives have superseded other considerations. But despite the financial considerations, Israel's policies during the past few months, and specifically the government's announcement about the West Bank housing last week, made the Americans' job of saying "no" easier, the minister reportedly told Begin.

Israeli Treasury Official Comments

TA011342 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Financial experts are hard at work trying to assess the effects of the American decision not to increase its aid to Israel next year. It is clear that some changes will have to be made although the real effects will not be felt until late next year when the American fiscal year begins.

The Treasury's economic adviser, Efrayim Dovrat, told reporter Harley Braidman that Israel will have to spend less and find other sources of money as a result of the American move.

[Begin recording] [Dovrat] If we don't get financing for our security procurements we will have to buy less, we'll have to extend the period of procurement over more years with all the risks involved.

[Braidman] Other sources of financing mean shorter term loans with higher interest rates with a greater foreign debt burden. Israel may also have to use some of her reserves to finance urgent defense spending.

[Dovrat] But of course what is most important is that we will have to find ways to save more dollars and to earn more dollars by cutting imports on one hand, and increasing exports on the other hand, so that our dependence on it will be reduced further.

[Braidman] Israel cannot increase local purchases of defense goods because much of the equipment she needs cannot be purchased here. Also, there was a high import component in local goods, and the danger of greater inflation due to pressure on resources. How would Israel's balance of payments situation be affected in 1981?

[Dovrat] We will have to borrow more. Then we'll have to repay more and pay higher interest rates.

[Braidman] Interest rates were more than 10 percent over a 5-year period, the interest on a billion dollars would be at least $300 million. And how would extra expenditures on oil affect Israel?

[Dovrat] The price of oil is the major explanation for the increase by some $600 or $700 million at least, which means $600 or $700 million more imports which means a contribution to an increase in the deficit for a similar amount. Seven-hundred million dollars is more or less the total nonmilitary aid which we will be receiving in the coming years, which means that on one hand you can say we need the whole aid for repayment of debts to the United States alone.

[Braidman] After the cut the amount supplied by the United States will suffice only to either pay the debt to the United States or to pay for the extra outlay on oil, not both. [end recording]

Hurvitz Comments on Decision

TA312023 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Interview with Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz by Elisha' Spiegelman--live in studio]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Hurvitz, the agreement with El Al will probably help you save $30 million. However, in the meantime, we have heard that as opposed to Israel's original request of $3.43 billion in U.S. aid we will only receive about $2 billion. How will we cope with this?

[Answer] First of all, I want to thank Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Finance Ministry Director General Ya'agov Ne'eman for exerting the utmost efforts at the last minute--and while being aware that it was the last minute--to try to improve the terms as much as possible and increase the planned loan. However, I would not say that I am happy with it. It will not meet our needs. We will all be called to make greater efforts to meet our vast requirements in one way or another, both in the economic and security spheres.

[Question] When you speak about efforts do you mean budget cutbacks and curtailment of procurement plans or other steps which would affect the citizens as well?

[Answer] The steps will probably affect all spheres. There is no other choice. People should know that these are our sources, our income, our exports and that these are the dollars that we save and earn or somehow manage to raise from friends. Criticism notwithstanding, these are our friends and $2 billion is not pocket money. We have received this sum. Of course, I would like to receive more. However, we should learn, to the extent possible, to live according to what we earn and to live according to our possibilities. All the citizens--those over the age of 18 and those younger--should realize that it is impossible to live on air.

[Question] When you say this do you mean, for instance, to limit the foreign currency that an Israeli citizen would be allowed to take overseas?

[Answer] No, I am not referring to operative things. The problem is not whether they will be allowed to take with them $3,000 or less. The main problem is, of course, to save on imports as much as possible, to produce for export as much as possible and to live according to our possibilities. It seems to me that I have already said these things about 1,000 times. However, they will not become banal if I repeat them for another 1,000 times. If we do not realize this we will be doomed. I very much believe that Israeli citizens realize the gravity of our situation.

[Anchorman] With regard to the operative aspects, I am sure that we will learn more about them in the next few days. Mr Finance Minister, thank you very much.

Israel's Arens Expresses Disappointment

TA311819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The United States will not increase its aid to Israel for 1981. However, it has agreed to grant a $200 million loan, in addition to the total aid package of $1.78 billion. Our correspondent in Washington notes that U.S. observers were not surprised by this decision. Besides the economic problems the United States is facing, President Carter has also pledged to increase the U.S. military budget.

In Jerusalem, Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Moshe Arens expressed his disappointment with the decision. He said that the 9 percent interest will erode the additional loan. According to Arens, Israel should rely more on domestic production of military equipment. Israel should also try to prevent the United States from encouraging an arms race in the area by supplying arms to the Arab countries.

Israeli Papers Comment

TA010701 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The editorials today discuss the beginning of the 1980's, the U.S. administration's share in the Israeli budget, the Cabinet decision on Elon More and the conclusion of the negotiations with the El Al workers.

DAVAR says the new decade opens today with dark heavy clouds in the skies of the international arena. It is unnecessary to say that in a decade beginning with such an international climate Israel too should expect to face hard tests. President Carter's decision not to increase the scope of aid may be one of the signs indicating this. Therefore, cool judgment and wisdom in running Israel's affairs is more important than ever, but regretfully, this is not the case today.

HATZOFE says Israel should demand that the United States reduce the arms deals with Egypt and Saudi Arabia so as not to encumber Israel with further arms purchases. The Treasury's gradual policy of tightening the belt will surely be compatible with the rates of military and economic aid that Israel will receive from Washington.

HAMODI'A writes that under the present conditions it is no exaggeration for the government to demand that the United States behave with restraint, at least in the controllable sphere of arms supply to Egypt. A parallel cut in the military aid given to Egypt will somehow balance the loss incurred by Israel, although the major problem is that the confrontation countries continue to equip themselves on a large scale with Soviet and other weaponry.

Additional Comments

TA010928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] YEDI'OT AHARONOT criticizes 'Ezer Weizman, who said in Washington that the United States does not need our permission to use our [military] installations since we will comply with all its appeals. The paper says that if bases are given the interests of the givers should be guaranteed. To give everything without conditions is not politics, but crawling.

MA'ARIV writes on the U.S. aid, saying that under the current inflation conditions in the United States, the sum decided on will enable us to buy less arms than last year. The $200-million loan we will receive at a 9-percent interest will not cover the full rate of the price rise of the commodities we will have to purchase with the aid funds.

CARTER REASSURED WEIZMAN OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

TA011625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jan 79 TA

[Text] During their talk at the White House President Carter told Minister Weizman that the U.S. commitment to continue the peace process in the Middle East was still valid. Carter is ready to accede to any Israeli or Egyptian appeal in the framework of this process in spite of his other concerns. Carter emphasized that the United States regarded Israel as an important strategic element. He said he would contact As-Sadat and Begin before their meeting in Aswan.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that at his meeting with Minister Weizman the U.S. secretary of defense said that the reports on Israeli allocation of many millions for the settlements made it hard for the U.S. administration to expand the aid given to Israel. Harold Brown emphasized that Israel was tarnishing its own image in spite of the steps it has taken for the sake of promoting peace.

The U.S. secretary of state told Minister Weizman that the negotiations on the autonomy arrangements had reached a stalemate. He asked the defense minister to explain how the negotiations can be advanced.

WEIZMAN SUPPORTS CABINET DECISION ON ELON MORE

TA311558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Excerpt] 'Ezer Weizman says he will support the Cabinet decision on Elon More, which was adopted during his absence from Israel. The defense minister said, however, that we are approaching the red line, as he put it, on the subject of Elon More. He further stated that he regrets that matters have reached such a point.

'ONE ISRAEL' POLITICAL MOVEMENT ESTABLISHED

TA012012 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1930 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 1 Jan--This evening, Yitzhaq Yitzhaqi--who resigned from the Likud--announced the establishment of a new political movement to be called "One Israel." The founding convention of the movement was held at "Bet Sokolov" in Tel Aviv with the participation of neighborhood activists. The convention was greeted by Knesset members Mordekhay Algrabli and Hillel Seidel and by Tel Aviv-Yaffa Mayor Shlomo Lahat.

Present the new movement's platform, Yitzhaq Yitzhaqi said that it would mainly deal with domestic problems. Among other things, the movement will deal with educational problems to assure that all children attend school, including underprivileged children. The movement will also deal with social problems and invalids.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY 'HAWKS' FORM GROUP

TAQ10625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Text] National Religious Party [NRP] hawks have organized into a circle headed by Hayim Druckman, about 40 people including rabbis, Bney 'Aqiva [a movement affiliated with the NRP] members and members of the religious community participated in the first convention of the circle held in Jerusalem yesterday. The participants criticized the NRP for not doing enough in the spheres of education, immigration and the integrity of the land.

Druckman Comments on Goals

TA011141 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Hayim Druckman said the new NRP grouping he leads is intended to move the party to again lead the activity for expanding the settlements. This grouping has just been established due to the struggle among the NRP factions prior to the internal elections. In his opinion immediate action should be taken today to maintain the integrity of the land since the autonomy plan will get underway in a few months' time. About 40 people, including rabbis, Bney 'Aqiva members and members of the religious community participated in the NRP hawks' convention in Jerusalem yesterday.

AS-SADAT THANKS BEGIN FOR BIRTHDAY WISHES

TA311323 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Today President As-Sadat sent a message of thanks to Mr Begin in response to the greetings that the prime minister sent him on the occasion of his 61st birthday. Anwar as-Sadat writes to Menahem Begin: My dear friend, I hold your noble and sincere feelings toward me and toward the Egyptian people in very high esteem.

ISRAEL TO PURCHASE E. JERUSALEM ELECTRICITY FRANCHISE

TA311314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Israel has decided to buy the franchise of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation. This will go into effect in 1 year. The decision was made by Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and transmitted to the chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Company Anwar an-Nusaybah. The East Jerusalem company employs 400 workers and supplies less than 2 percent of all electricity in Israel. Only a third of its production is from its own equipment, with the rest through the Israel Electric Corporation's national grid. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said the move is for strictly technological and economic reasons. Among the reasons cited for the buying of the franchise were the inefficiency of such a small electric company, its inability to supply electricity to a large number of Arab villages it serves and its operation of expensive oil-powered generators. But the workers committee charged that this is a political move and demanded that the electric corporation be kept in Arab hands.

Israeli Takeover Decried

TA311902 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Chairman of the board of the directors of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation claims that the government's decision to purchase the company's franchise is politically motivated. In a news conference, Anwar an-Nusaybah announced that the company was considering an appeal to the International Court in The Hague on the issue. An-Nusaybah rejected the energy minister's statement that the government had made the decision because the company could not maintain the pace of development. An-Nusaybah pointed out that the company's engineers were efficient and qualified. The company's workers committee has announced that it will not cooperate with the Israel Electric Corporation.

At noon, the military government banned the mayors of Hebron and Halhul from attending the news conference in East Jerusalem. The Hebron mayor told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation belongs to the Palestinian people and is not for sale.

On another issue, Al-Qawasimi protested the fact that the military government--according to him--was pestering the inhabitants of the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp and has not allowed the residents to sleep because of the searches it has been carrying out. The military government has rejected this claim. Our correspondent notes that stones were hurled at Israeli vehicles from this refugee camp. The military government has successfully prevented it. It is now only interrogating people suspected of having thrown stones.

West Bank in Ferment

TA020841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The Israeli Government's decision to buy the concession of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation is causing ferment in Judaea, Samaria and Jerusalem. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. The Judaea and Samaria mayors are calling meetings in several places in order to unite public opinion on this issue. Such a meeting is expected in Nabulus the day after tomorrow. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said Israel's decision in fact means an economic annexation of East Jerusalem. He told a REUTER correspondent that one of the major reasons for the technical problems of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation is Israel's refusal to allow the company to purchase new generators. Our correspondent reports that the directorate of the East Jerusalem company has turned to Israeli attorneys, asking them to look into possible courses of action.

MA'ARIV EDITORIAL ON LESSON OF AFGHANISTAN

TA301012 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Dec 79 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "The Infiltration Into Afghanistan"]

[Text] Last week, when the United States courted the members of the UN Security Council to secure their support for the balloon-like resolution to impose sanctions on Iran, the second superpower, the Soviet Union, carried out a brutal act of belligerency, using a large military force and in broad daylight, against Iran's neighbor--Afghanistan.

The legal cover for the military intervention was never sought by the Soviet Union in the United Nations. The Soviet Union not only knows, but moreover cultivates--together with her "the Third World" mates--the impotence and ineffectualness of that organ in preventing international crises or solving them. Nor did it disturb its loyal ally Dr Kurt Waldheim, unlike the United States, which now puts all its faith on the UN secretary general, hoping that he would do something to save the Tehran hostages.

The legal fig leaf for the intervention--if the Soviet Union had ascribed any significance to appeasing the ears of those who are meticulously versed in international law--the Soviet Union sought and received from its new puppet in Kabul, just as it received so-called "approval" for military intervention in Czechoslovakia at the time from the then Prague government.

In contrast to the methods it employed in Africa, this time the Soviet Union did not use a Cuban expeditionary force, either because it estimated that Cuba has already stretched its ability to intervene beyond the ocean too far, or because it preferred to carry out the act of conquest not through a messenger or an angel, but by itself, and most important, through soldiers from its Asian regions.

Thus, without fear of "what will they say" abroad, and certainly without asking its own citizens through referendums, the Soviet Union infiltrated into Afghanistan, while at the same time also deploying strong forces along its Iranian border. All at once the Soviet Union has thus increased its potential threat to the Persian Gulf and its treasures, with its "calculated risk" based on the not altogether improbable assumption that in reacting to this, the United States would not go beyond a verbal reprimand, be it as strong as it may.

It is yet premature to assess whether the new Kabul regime would succeed where its predecessors had failed, they too having been aided by the Soviet Union to a large extent in oppressing tribal insurrections. This, in fact, will be the chief test of the new ruler both in his own eyes and in the eyes of his own people and the Soviet Union which, in the event that he fails, would not hesitate to send him to the dogs, just as it had its predecessor, Hafizollah Amin.

But this time, unlike previous times, the Soviet Union is determined to no longer make do with advisers and experts, but also to operate its forces for the pacification of the land, which is most important for it strategically.

In addition to the long-term strategic advantage, the military incursion into Afghanistan has granted the Soviet Union--at least in the short term--a dimension of credibility in the eyes of the nations of Asia and Africa and ultimately also in the eyes of the peoples in Europe: credibility in its ability to make bold decisions and carry out a complex military adventure beyond its borders.

This is a dimension which is now absent in the U.S. leadership and because of which it is now tormented by shame and absorbing strategic defeats from one end of the world to the other.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: PDPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS, KARMAL SPEAKS

ID011956 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 80 ID

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Congratulations on the 15th anniversary of your United People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA].

The proud, 15th anniversary of the PDPA was celebrated this afternoon by members of the Central Committee of the united PDPA, members of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, members of the government, and some party [word indistinct] at the hall of the [word indistinct].

Here are the proceedings for this meeting: [Begin recording of unidentified speaker in Dari]

With the permission of our revolutionary Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's [DRA] Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, members of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and militant friends, I am proud that at this valuable moment in the country's progressive revolutionary history, at this joint meeting of the PDPA Central Committee, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and members of the DRA Government, on the occasion of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the victorious PDPA, to read the items on the agenda for this meeting to my comrades:

1. The national anthem.

2. The opening of the meeting by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

3. In remembrance of (?those killed) on the path to freedom by Dr Anahita Ratebzadah [minister of education and training].

4. A reading from the holy Koran by Qari Nawroz 'Ali.

5. Babrak Karmal's speech on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the PDPA, and the announcement of the total amnesty [word indistinct] of the PDPA Central Committee by the chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA. [applause]

6. A congratulatory message to the PDPA which will be read in Pashto and Dari by Aslam Watanjar and Brig Abdol Qader.

The meeting will end with the playing of the national anthem. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

[Agenda item No 1: The national anthem followed by applause]

[Agenda item No 2] [Begin Karmal recording in Pashto] Dear comrades, allow me to open this meeting on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, members of the government, and some party (?officials) on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the PDPA. [applause]

This party is a great school for the victorious education of the party [members], is the genuine party of the country's people and their sons, has reared all the valiant sons, has the power of moving our society [forward], and is a shining star and pathfinder of the country's people's revolutionary movement.

I heartily congratulate you champions, valiant patriots and servants of the people and the country and (?via you) all members of the party. [applause] [end recording]

[Agenda item No 3] [Begin Anahita Ratebzadah recording] Despite riches, you are destitute you dear motherland, you, our dear mother. [applause]

Hafizollah Amin, this [words indistinct] and criminal murderer, made any opposition seem like terroristic actions against the principles of his government and [words indistinct]. He used to torture groups of his opponents, send them to prison and to slaughterhouses. Criminal and bloodthirsty Amin and his government butchered tens of thousands of our revolutionary compatriots comprising workers' sons, peasants, intellectuals and religious leaders, killing all those who were respected by our people. He destroyed and annihilated tens of thousands of our people using inhumane torture equipment. This bloodthirsty criminal and agent of American imperialism, who is now being defended by Carter, wiped his blooddripping hand on Nur Mohammad Taraki [applause]--blessings be upon him--the first general secretary of our party, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

There is also evidence that Need Mir Akbar Khaiber--peace be upon him--member of the Central Committee of our party [applause] was murdured by the bloodthirsty terroristic bands. [end recording]

[Agenda Item No 4 omitted--reading from the Koran]

[Agenda item No 5] [Begin Karmal recording in Dari] Exactly 15 years ago to this day, an important event occurred in our country. The PDPA held its first congress under the leadership of Nur Mohammad Taraki--peace be upon him--for the prosperity and betterment of all the people of our country. [applause] The PDPA, the real vanguard of the country's people in the realization of the country's class situation, is progressing and it brought into being the working class ideology in accordance with the conditions of our society.

In its 15 years, the PDPA has experienced various social and political struggles, including organizational and ideological ones. In these years of struggle against reaction and imperialism for independence and democracy and in awakening the people, the PDPA has played a leading role.

The episode of 1967 is a proud event in our party's course. It paved the way for further revolutionary steps. The unity of the PDPA led to further successes.

The latest events in our country prove the legality and truth of our party. [applause] The importance of our party is that it reflects the interests of the working class and all the workers of the country and the democratic strata of our society in a profound way. It also paves the way for the progress of our fatherland society. It provides the possibilities for the evolution of our society in a positive manner and the salvation of our social and economic affairs, so that the program for the development (?objectives) of the Sawr Revolution can be put into practice and so that the opportunities for peace and security and real freedom can be made available.

Our society with the PDPA leadership will follow the path which has been taken by the socialist countries. It is the aim of the PDPA that our society will evolve with the (?mechanization) of agriculture and a revolutionary culture. This we shall do as we have shown we have done so far.

Comrades: At present the greatest problem facing our people is the defense of the revolution from internal antirevolutionaries and the interference of imperialists. The PDPA is at the front of the struggle and is defending (?revolutionary gains) victoriously and valiantly. [applause]

Imperialist and reactionary powers--these enemies of the independence and interests of the country's people--cannot interfere in the internal affairs of our country or act against the interests of (?other) countries of the region. The imperialist powers, which have American imperialism at the head, have been trying with the aid of the region's reactionaries to interfere with the internal affairs of our country from the start of the Sawr Revolution and to suffocate the independence of our people and block the progress of our country.

Imperialism, through reactionary internal provocations and with its aggressive policy, has been trying--with the aid of its spy--to make it possible for the gains of our revolution to be endangered.

But the real friend of our country's independence, the Soviet Union, [applause] with its fraternal timely help, neutralized these plans of the external enemies of Afghanistan. [applause]

Now imperialism and its lackeys, under the pretext of sincerity but in reality because of the downfall of bloodthirsty Amin's fascist regime and the longstanding spy of American imperialism and his criminal family members, are shedding tears. Imperialist countries and their lackeys are interfering in the internal affairs of our country and they are arming antiprogress and anti-Afghanistan elements with the aid of other countries in different parts of the world.

Mr Carter is recognizing Amin, the criminal spy of the CIA, as the official and legal government of Afghanistan and Amin himself as the leader of Afghanistan, and is defending Hafizollah Amin, the loyal spy of American imperialism. (?The situation is totally clear). The [word indistinct] of the reactionaries and imperialists of the region are defending Amin and his terroristic band. They are defending someone who has killed thousands of our Muslim compatriots.

In accordance with our policy of peace, we do not allow (?Pakistan and China) and various Muslim Arab countries or any other reactionary policies (?to interfere in our affairs). But it is strange to notice that the voices of these countries have become one with the voice of American imperialism and other imperialist countries. We are absolutely certain that the attempts of the imperialists and reactionaries and antirevolution will be faced with total defeat, especially when they try to alter the positive achievements in the life of our people and our country.

Now our people recognize the interference of imperialism and its lackeys. Compatriots and those of our countrymen who are proud of our achievements will positively appraise our relationship with our great northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, and other socialist states. The fraternal relationship that exists between the people of the DRA and the USSR and the cooperation in the economics, technological, political and military fields in the years to come, for the progress of our country, defense of democracy, national independence, [word indistinct] are for the benefit of our people. [applause]

That's why [word indistinct] according to the request of the DRA Government, of the USSR Government upon the principles of political and moral support, including urgent military support in accordance with the treaty of friendship and goodneighborliness dated 5 December 1978 between the DRA and the USSR has met with a positive reaction from the noble and free people of our country. [applause] The requested military aid of the USSR to prevent the continuous aggression of Afghanistan's foreign enemies for the defense of our independence and national integrity--and which has been asked for--are in accordance with the UN Charter and international law and cannot be considered contrary to them. [applause]

In accordance with Section 51 of the UN Charter, it is the right of every country to ask for help from countries that are friendly to it. Whenever, the government and state of the DRA requires it, and when there is no external threat against our nation, and when the peace and security of the region is guaranteed, the small and limited units of the USSR will leave Afghanistan.

In accordance with our beliefs and the honor and integrity of our country, we announce to the world that so long as the enemies of Afghanistan do not disengage from interference with our sovereign territory, we, on the basis of the wishes of the people of Afghanistan and for the sake of the defense of our country, shall ask for further assistance from the USSR and other peace-loving countries of the world. For the sake of the defense of the aims of Sawr Revolution, national independence and integrity and the defense of our sacred land we will ask for help from Vietnam, victorious Cuba, Ethiopia, Angola and the victorious Palestinian Arab people and others. [applause]

We loudly announce (?that the proud people of Afghanistan put an end to reaction and imperialism with one blow) in any way [as heard], the people of Afghanistan within the framework of the DRA and with the leadership of the PDPA for national independence and the achievements of the lofty aims of the Sawr Revolution, are bravely struggling against internal and external enemies and will not back down. [applause]

Comrades: Our enemies have been defeated and our people have succeeded. [applause] Our people, in accordance with their experience, and the PDPA, are the defenders of the true interests of the people of Afghanistan. The PDPA has a deep belief in the independence and progress of our country and the defense of our territory and economic and political independence is its major aim; it considers this its sacred duty. [applause]

That is why our united party can be considered to be internationalist and patriotic. Our patriotism is connected with internationalism. [applause]

On its 15th anniversary, the PDPA affirms, vis-a-vis the people, the working class and all the workers of the country, that it will hold the flag of struggle against imperialism and reaction. It will preserve freedom and democracy and national independence by upholding the flag of resistance. [applause]

"Long Live the United PDPA!"
"Long Live Independence and Democracy for the People of Afghanistan!"
"Long Live the Working People of Afghanistan!"
"Ahead with the National Independence and Sovereignty of Our Dear Country Afghanistan!"

Allow me to make the announcement about political prisoners to the people of Afghanistan. [applause] Hafizollah Amin, the conspirator and criminal [words indistinct], this recognized spy of American imperialism, who Carter (?defends as the legal ruler), through his deceit [as heard] killed thousands of our party cadres and religious people, workers and peasants, and intellectuals and national democrats under various pretexts and threw them into prisons. He made thousands of children fatherless and caused there to be thousands of widows. (?He spread terror in the country). [passage indistinct] He turned our country into a slaughterhouse and built prisons--with the prisoners. The DRA Government (?is releasing thousands of political prisoners) and is announcing this to the people of Afghanistan and the world through the media. [applause] I announce the release of all those prisoners who have been put in prison since the bloody Amin took over without taking into consideration their language, belief or nationality. [applause]

I repeat: Allow me on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the PDPA, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA to announce a total amnesty for all those political prisoners who have survived the bloody Amin reign without taking into consideration their class, religion, tribe, language, nationality and political differences. [applause]

My (?freedom-loving) compatriots: those criminal followers of Amin [words indistinct] who remain in prison do so in accordance with my historic 28 December 1979 speech which says: (?nobody will be taken to prison without being properly tried). [applause]

Oppressed countrymen: The day of celebration for the release of political prisoners who come under this total amnesty in accordance with a program in the capital and in the provinces will be announced by the radio and in papers.

Now that the tyrant has vanished, we hope that all democratic movements, as a fatherland league under the leadership of the PDPA (?who rose against Amin and his family), will stand for an independent country and will work for a proud Afghanistan. [applause] [end recording]

[Item No 6 omitted--Lt Col Aslam Watanjar reads the message from the CPSU Central Committee to the PDPA Central Committee in Pashto; Brig Gen Abdol Qader then reads the same message in Dari.]

[The meeting ends with the playing of the national anthem]

BBC CORRESPONDENT 31 DEC REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN CITIES

TA310628 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[From "correspondents' reports"]

[Text] Yesterday, a group of about 20 reporters flew into Afghanistan from Delhi and, although they got no further than Kabul airport, they saw telling evidence of the Soviet military presence. Mark Tulley sent us this report from Delhi:

The foreign correspondents who flew on the first commercial flight from Delhi since the Russian invasion started were told by a spokesman who refused to identify himself that the Revolutionary Council had decided they should not enter. He said that their safety couldn't be guaranteed because of the activity of terrorists supporting the former President Hafizollah Amin, who was executed following last Thursday night's coup. But the spokesman did promise that the new president, Babrak Karmal, would be holding a press conference to which foreign correspondents would be invited.

Although held at the airport, correspondents saw conclusive evidence of a massive Soviet military airlift. One experienced Western correspondent told me he had seen tanks, armored personnel carriers and heavy artillery on the tarmac. There was also row after row of transport aircraft, troop carriers and helicopter gunships. He described it as acre after acre of military equipment.

A resident of Kabul who traveled in the same aircraft as the foreign correspondents said he'd heard reports of clashes between Soviet and Afghan troops in the cities of Herat and Jalalabad. Other residents of Kabul confirmed the city was in the control of the Soviet Army. One said that although the shops were open people were afraid to go out because there were so many troops on the streets. Another confirmed that Russian troops had dug in on the perimeter of the city. This confirms earlier diplomatic reports that the Russians are establishing a defensive ring around the capital.

ISLAMABAD SOURCES REPORT SOVIETS NEAR PAKISTAN BORDER

HK310205 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 31 Dec 79 HK

[Text] Islamabad, 31 Dec (AFP)--Soviet troops have fanned out within Afghanistan and are occupying positions in vital garrison towns and near the Pakistani border, informed sources said here Sunday.

The Soviets have also "encircled suspect Afghan Army camps," and units of demoralized Afghan Army troops have been reassigned to directing traffic, normally a policy duty, rebel Afghan sources here added.

The Soviet troops, armed with modern weaponry, have been seen concentrating at sites 20 to 30 miles from the Pakistani border in mountainous terrain, the sources said.

After replacing President Hafizollah Amin with Babrak Karmal, the Soviets have started a "direct operation" to crush the Moslem rebellion in several Afghan provinces, the sources said. Soviet troops were reportedly seen deployed in the strategically-important garrison town of Qadhar and in the Asmar area bordering the Pakistani town of Chitral where Afghan refugees are camped, the sources said. The latest arrival of Soviet military hardware has also been moved into bordering Badakhshan Province where the Soviets have already taken land from rebel Afghan tribes, the sources said.

The Pakistan Government has already expressed its "gravest concern" over the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan. Informed sources said the government was seriously considering improving its defences. Observers here did not rule out the possibility of equipping the Pakistan Air Force with modern, U.S.-built jet fighters to match Afghanistan's Soviet-supplied MIGS.

DPA: ONLY TWO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ALLOWED INTO KABUL

LD311420 Hamburg DPA in German 1321 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] New Delhi--According to an Interior Ministry spokesman in Kabul, the new rulers in Afghanistan have "no time" to insure the safety of foreign correspondents. This was the reason given to a group of 22 journalists who flew to Kabul on Sunday with the first Indian Airlines plane from Delhi.

The situation was not normal, the journalists were told, their safety could not be guaranteed. A reason for the insecurity was, according to a spokesman, the presence of terrorist groups of the former president, Hafizollah Amin, who was executed on Friday.

The officials at Kabul airport made two exceptions, however; Gaby Althaus, East Berlin's ADN correspondent, and Polish journalist Ryszard Piekarowicz were allowed to enter. Two West European cameramen gave their professions as "technicians" and slipped through the checks.

A Dutch photographer, whose name was given as Hugh van Es, tried to get through the barriers, according to eyewitness reports, even though the officials had taken away his passport. He was apparently arrested and was not allowed to fly back to India with the rest of the group.

KABUL CITES INDIAN SPOKESMAN ON USSR'S ACTION, NONALINEMENT

LD311506 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The official spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has said that the USSR's support to a [nonalined] country is not a violation of the principles of nonalinement. The spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said that the USSR has agreed to give Afghanistan military assistance on the basis of Afghanistan's [word indistinct]. He added that its aim was to strengthen Afghanistan in order to defend it from foreign aggression and prevent interference in the internal affairs of that country.

The spokesman of the Indian Government said in reply to a correspondent's question: The [word indistinct] of Afghanistan requested the USSR to give help and this does not violate the principles of nonaliance. [passage indistinct]

31 DEC REPORT ON SITUATION IN KABUL

TA311535 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 31 Dec 79 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] More details are emerging about the situation in Afghanistan. An estimated 30,000 Russian troops are now believed to be in the country, and they are reported to have clashed with the opponents of the new communist regime. The capital, Kabul, has been turned into a virtual fortress with all important buildings and strategic points under guard. From Delhi, our correspondent Mark Tulley has been getting the first information about Soviet casualties in the fighting. [Begin Tulley recording]

The figure of Soviet casualties given by diplomats is 250. That, they calculate, means 25 dead, the rest wounded. Bearing in mind the massive airlift of Soviet military equipment that preceded the takeover and the fact that the battle lasted for only 3 and 1/2 hours, the casualties indicate short, but sharp resistance by Afghan troops loyal to the executed President Amin. Only the Afghan armed forces could have inflicted such casualties on Soviet troops moving around in tanks and armored personnel carriers.

There is now evidence that Afghan troops in other parts of the country are still resisting. Diplomatic missions in Kabul speak of unconfirmed reports of Afghan units turning against the Soviet troops in various places. There are also diplomatic reports from Kabul of Soviet troops in action against the Muslim rebels, who have been fighting government forces ever since the first pro-Soviet coup 20 months ago.

In Kabul itself, Soviet troops are still strengthening the defensive ring they've built up around the city. Meanwhile, more details have come to light of the Soviet forces which moved overland after the takeover. They apparently comprise two motorized infantry divisions. An airborne division of Soviet troops was moved in before the takeover. The troops are supported by artillery towed by heavy trucks, T-72 tanks, multiple rocket-launchers and numerous armored personnel carriers. [end recording]

AFP: REBEL GROUP SAYS FIGHTING SPREADS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NC311730 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 31 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31 (AFP)--A Soviet general has reportedly died in fighting in Afghanistan in the wake of last Thursday's coup d'etat, according to the Afghanistan Liberation Front here today.

The front, comprising several Islamic combatant groups, told a press conference here that the death toll among Islamic forces in Afghanistan since Thursday stood at 400 dead, 180 of whom died in fighting at Kabul, the capital.

A front official said, quoting regular situation reports his organization received across the Afghan frontier, said fighting had now spread through the whole country and the army had set up roadblocks on all highways leading to Kabul. The front put the Soviet presence in Afghanistan at 25,000 troops, including several hundred military counsellors.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT DENOUNCES PROPAGANDA, EXPLAINS USSR AID

LD311752 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Statement by the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA]: As of late, the imperialist, colonialist and reactionary forces have embarked on extensive slanderous propaganda against the brave and noble people of Afghanistan and the government of the DRA. The reason they have given for their propaganda is the request by the government of the DRA, based on the agreement of 5 December 1978, for urgent political, military and moral assistance. The USSR Government gave a positive response to this request for political, military and moral assistance.

The government of the DRA announces once again that this request by the government of the DRA took place as a result of the extensive aggression and (?propaganda) by imperialism and the foreign enemies of the people of Afghanistan. For these forces threatened the gains of the Sawr Revolution; they wanted to restore the previous state of affairs in our country and put their own agents in a position of power and wealth. Had the enemies of the Sawr Revolution been allowed to continue their subversive efforts without hindrance, then extensive terror and brutality against the sacred religion of Islam and our national traditions would have continued as in the past.

It is no wonder that the United States leads this anti-Afghan propaganda. From the early days of the victory of the Sawr Revolution, the United States adopted its anti-Afghan position. America is struggling to divert the attention of people of the world from its disgraceful aggression against Iran. The U.S. President shamelessly chose to defend Hafizollah Amin as the legal president of Afghanistan. Nothing could be further from the law.

Was it not Hafizollah Amin who usurped state and government power, carried out a treacherous conspiracy against the late Nur Mohammad Taraki, brought into power his bloody dictatorial regime and eliminated all those people who did not agree with him? It may be asked: Where was the U.S. Government when Hafizollah Amin condemned to death thousands of honorable and innocent human beings including the intellectuals, religious leaders and toilers of Afghanistan without investigation or trial? The just wrath of the strata of the people of Afghanistan eliminated this savage butcher from the political arena.

The government of the DRA will not allow anyone to violate the just rights of the people of Afghanistan. It will defend with all its might the values of the Sawr Revolution and the territorial integrity and national independence of the country. No one can stop an independent state which has the right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter to seek necessary assistance from those countries with which it has signed international agreements. The government and people of Afghanistan regard propaganda against their homeland as an attempt at interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and a hindrance in the way of victory of the Sawr Revolution.

In order to strengthen friendly and fraternal relations with all the neighboring and Islamic countries and to consolidate peace in this region, the guaranteed independence and freedom of Afghanistan is an absolute necessity. The government of the DRA announces: Whenever the foreign aggression and interference come to an end, the need for these kinds of aid will also disappear.

AFP 1 JAN REPORT ON SITUATION, SOVIET STRENGTH

[By Jim Wolf]

BK010538 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Jan (AFP)--Diplomatic sources here were unable early today to confirm or deny a reported clash in Kabul between Soviet troops and Afghan units loyal to the regime ousted last week in a Moscow-made coup.

The usually well-informed sources said they had not yet heard of the fighting, which reportedly pitted Soviet combat troops against supporters of deposed President Hafizollah Amin, who was killed in the coup and replaced by Babrak Karmal. The reports, quoting diplomats in Kabul, had said brief but stiff fighting had broken out early yesterday near the radio station in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy. If confirmed, the Soviet-Afghan clash would be the first of its kind since Soviet troops in their thousands staged the lightning coup last Thursday night after a massive military buildup a few days before.

Current estimates of Soviet troop strength in the landlocked Asian state vary between 25,000 and 30,000, with elements of three more divisions, possibly totalling another 30,000 men, poised on the border, ready to intervene.

Meanwhile, ordinary lines of communication remained cut in Kabul, where an estimated 10,000 Soviet troops were said to be building a defensive security belt around the city's perimeter.

The mountain-fringed airport in Kabul was closed last night, ostensibly due to hazardous landing conditions caused by snow, forcing a Kabul-bound flight from London to be diverted here to New Delhi.

The Arinana Afghan Airways flight, a DC-10 packed with journalists that had made intermediate stops in Frankfurt and Istanbul, left here this morning shortly after 8 am local time, apparently after receiving clearance for landing in Kabul. Some seats were empty on the plane, the first commercial flight scheduled to enter Kabul since the bulk of Western correspondents were turned away when the airport reopened on Sunday. But local airline officials refused to sell tickets to Kabul-bound reporters originating here, citing international regulations they said forbade such a practice on a diverted flight. The newsmen on board were expected to be refused entry again, although some of them were understood to have obtained visas in Washington and in European capitals. Another Kabul-bound flight from New Delhi, postponed from yesterday, was scheduled to leave later this afternoon (1400 local), but there were indications it would be cancelled. In refusing us entry on Sunday, the new Afghan authorities, apparently acting under Soviet orders, had said the new Marxist government--Afghanistan's third in 20 months--could not yet ensure the safety of foreign reporters.

Anti-communist Muslim rebels have been fighting a bloody guerrilla war against the successive Marxist administrations, but are now reported to be sharply divided among themselves, demoralized and mainly fighting for loot.

Meanwhile, there was still no word on the fate of Hubert van Es, a Hong Kong-based Dutch national on assignment for TIME magazine who remained in Kabul on Sunday, possibly jailed. Van Es was still arguing with Afghan officials, demanding to be allowed into the country, when I was physically hustled onto the returning Delhi-bound Indian Airlines flight, the last newsman to be forced out of the arrivals terminal and the last to see Van Es.

More on Detained Newsman

BK0010840 Hong Kong AFP in English 0833 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 1 Jan (AFP)--TIME magazine stringer Hubert van Es, who refused to board a flight out of Afghanistan on Sunday when authorities there turned back the first Western correspondents to arrive after the coup, is being detained at the Kabul Inter-continental Hotel, the magazine's correspondent here said today.

Mr van Es, a Hong Kong-based Dutch photographer, believed to be in his thirties and a veteran of Vietnam War coverage, was apparently safe, but unable to leave the building, according to TIME's New Delhi correspondent, Marcia Gauger, who received word through her headquarters in New York, which quoted a news agency report.

MUSLIM INSURGENTS REPORTEDLY CLASH WITH SOVIET TROOPS 31 DEC

NC011310 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 1, (AFP)--Muslim insurgents clashed with Soviet troops in Kodaman 15 km (10 miles) from Kabul yesterday, reliable sources said here today. Fighting was also reported at various places around Kabul between insurgents and joint Afghan-Soviet forces. However, the sources said that Kabul itself was quiet although sporadic firing was heard during the past two nights.

Reports reaching Pakistan's border city of Peshawar said today that Muslim rebel organisations in Afghanistan were preparing to confront Soviet troops which have fanned out in eastern Afghan provinces. The Soviet troops used MIG fighters and helicopter gunships to control the important Ishkishim District situated near strategic Wah Khan Pass which leads to China and Soviet Union, the sources added. (Reports reaching New Delhi, meanwhile, said that Soviet troops had blocked the historic Khyber Pass on the Pakistani border to incoming travelers. The pass is Afghanistan's only land route to the East.)

The pro-Muslim newspaper JANG today reported "heavy fighting" in the eastern province of Nuristan, the first province Muslim insurgents claimed to have liberated after the 1978 pro-Moscow coup in Kabul. Heavy air raids destroyed a mosque in the area killing 260 worshippers and at least 35 Muslim fighters, the newspaper said.

JANG said that Muslims fighting the communist forces in Afghanistan have stepped up their activities in Kunar province near the Pakistani border, where they destroyed a telephone exchange yesterday. Muslim "Mojahedin" guerrillas reportedly claimed that the northeastern province of Badakhshan was still under their control, and held "partial" control of Takhar Province, just to the southwest, JANG said.

It said a "fierce Soviet-backed offensive" launched against Muslim insurgents in Badakhshan yesterday with helicopter gunships and MIG jets had failed to make any major gains because of a heavy snowfall. Two Soviet military aircraft were lost in the bad weather, the newspaper said.

BBC REPORTS SOVIETS MOVING TO CONTROL ENTIRE COUNTRY

TA011544 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 1 Jan 79 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Russian troops in Afghanistan are spreading out, from all reports, in an apparent attempt to take control of the whole of the country, despite mounting international criticism of their action.

They are now reported to have reached close to the border with Iran, after advancing in the other direction, just short of the Pakistan frontier. However, it seems the Soviet drive is proceeding only with some resistance, although the Afghan capital, Kabul, is now reported generally quiet after 2 days of scattered firing. This report on the situation from our correspondent in Delhi, Mark Tulley. [Begin Tulley recording]

Diplomats in Delhi report that Soviet troops have now reached the Western city of Herat, which controlls the roads to the Iran border. Yesterday they were reported in Jalalabad, just short of the Pakistan border, so it looks as if Russia is sealing off Afghanistan.

There's been firing, including grenades, in the capital of Kabul over the last 2 days. This is the first report of firing since the Russian army moved in on Thursday night. It's not known what caused the firing, but there is speculation that some Afghan army units, loyal to the executed president, Hafizollah Amin, are still holding out in or near the capital.

There are also unconfirmed reports of engagements between Afghan and Russian soldiers in other parts of the country. Diplomats now believe that there could be as many as 40,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and an equal number poised on the border.

A member of an influential Afghan family who has arrived in Delhi says that the former President Amin was tricked by his Russian advisers into leaving his palace in the center of the city and taking up residence in a palace on the outskirts. They told him it would be easier to defend, because it was on a hill. As it turned out, they wanted to avoid a battle in the center of the capital. He also reports that the Russians tricked Afghan soldiers into moving their tanks away from the radio station before the takeover, but an Afghan division did apparently move to try and save President Amin. Mark Tulley. [end recording]

EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES PRESIDENT AMIN'S KILLING

TA011609 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 1 Jan 80 TA

[From "Outlook"]

[Text] In Afghanistan, as the Soviet forces spread out across the country, estimates of their numbers continue to grow. Some diplomatic sources now suggest there may be as many as 40,000. Opportunities to get accurate news are rapidly diminishing, because the Soviet Union is clearly anxious to seal off the country as quickly as possible. The most valuable sources of information at the moment are the eyewitnesses who have recently left Afghanistan. Some of them have now reached New Delhi and Brian (Redhead) has been giving me their account of what happened. [begin (Redhead) recording]

And a fascinating story too. It appears that the Soviet Union persuaded Hafizollah Amin, the president of Afghanistan, to move to a different palace for his own safety and then killed him. Of course, it's not possible to verify this version of recent events, but it came from a man who was in a position to know and whose identity, because he is in that position, it would be madness to disclose. He reached Delhi from Kabul and I spoke to him last night at great length, listening carefully to what he had to say. His English was hesitant, but I think with the aid of a street map of Kabul I grasped what he was saying.

You remember that Amin seized power from Taraki in September. Now, that wasn't what the Soviet Union had in mind, because President Taraki had just returned from Moscow with instructions to get rid of Amin. But Amin's men killed him, and they do say that some of those events actually took place in the presence of the Soviet ambassador. Anyway, the Soviet Union wasn't pleased, but Amin was in control and in the guise of advising him they gradually organized his overthrow.

At the beginning of December, Soviet advisers arrived on the scene and they persuaded Amin, for his own safety, to move from the old kings' palace in the center of Kabul--they now call it the People's House--to another palace on a hill on the outskirts. This palace is called (Daru Lamen), but I think we'll call it the Palace of Execution, and Amin moved in there the week before Christmas. Well, on Christmas Eve, the Soviet troops began to land at three airports. The first lot arrived at a military airport, which is about 60 miles from Kabul; the second, at a military airport much closer to the city; and the third lot, and this is the largest force, at the civil airport, which is on the outskirts of the city. Under the cover of darkness, the troops who had arrived at the civil airport moved in armored personnel carriers to the Soviet embassy, which is about a mile from this new palace, this Palace of Execution, and there they surrounded the palace.

There was an Afghan division about 4 miles away, which came to his defense. But there was some confusion in the Afghan army, because Taraki had imprisoned most of the senior officers early last year and the majors and captains who remained weren't used to overall command. Amin himself was the commander in chief, but his No 2 was his Soviet adviser, and this is the clever bit: The Soviet adviser, on the promise of delivering new tanks, persuaded the Afghan army to syphon the fuel out of their existing tanks and also to remove the ammunition. So, as you can imagine, they weren't of much use, especially when the new tanks arrived manned with Soviet troops.

The battle for the palace was apparently fiercely fought and, according to this man, it lasted for about 4 and 1/4 hours. The people in Kabul itself could hear the gunfire from the palace on the hill on Thursday. But when they turned on their radios to find out what was happening, there were only familiar and reassuring programs, because the Soviet troops had also taken over the radio station.

So the Soviet troops triumphed. Amin was executed apparently early on Friday morning. [end recording]

AFP: AFGHAN REBEL SPOKESMAN ON FIGHTING

NC011733 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, north-west Pakistan, Jan 1 (AFP)--Fighting between elements of the Afghan army loyal to the ousted government of Hafizollah Amin and supporters of new leader Babrak Karmal has broken out in several parts of Afghanistan since the coup on December 27, Moslem Afghan guerrillas said here today.

The fighting has added to general confusion in the country and has prompted widespread desertions from the Afghan army which has a theoretical strength of 150,000 men, a spokesman for the Jamiat-E-Islam Afghanistan--one of the two most important guerrilla movements--said.

The guerrillas, who have their headquarters here, said their attacks on Soviet and Afghan Army forces were also partly responsible for desertions from the Afghan ranks. The spokesman added: "Afghanistan will not be another Czechoslovakia. We shall fight to the last man because there is no other way." He added that clashes between supporters of the former and current Afghan leaders had occurred in Kabul, adding that four Soviet soldiers were killed two days ago by a guerrilla commando in the centre of the capital some 500 metres (yards) from the Afghan Marxist Khalq Party's headquarters.

To prevent a repetition of such murders, Soviet forces were setting up city zones banned to all Afghans, who were to be evicted from their homes, he said. Quoting Afghans recently arrived in Pakistan, the spokesman said Kabul was a silent city and appeared to be uninhabited as few people were to be seen apart from Soviet soldiers.

AFP QUOTES GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE CRITICAL OF UNITED STATES

NC011815 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 1 (AFP)--The new government in Kabul today announced that it considers the U.S. reaction to developments in Afghanistan as "interference" in her internal affairs."

A government communique, broadcast by Radio Kabul and monitored here, asserted that Afghanistan had sought help from the Soviet Union "in view of persistent aggression activities of the enemies of Afghanistan." The communique said that when the threat of external aggression was over, there would be "no need for such cooperation" from the Soviet Union. "No one has the right to stop any country from seeking help from another country for its own defence on the basis of an international treaty," the radio quoted the communique as saying.

The communique charged that U.S. "propaganda" had tried to divert world attention from the Iranian crisis. "The United States has resorted to a campaign against the April revolution from the very beginning to divert the attention of the world from its acts in Iran," the communique said.

But the Afghan Government would "not permit any power to plunder democratic rights of its people," it said, warning that the Marxist regime would defend its revolution, and national independence and sovereignty "at all costs."

REBEL SPOKESMAN APPEALS FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT

NC011823 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 1 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Peshawar, north-west Pakistan, Jan 1 (AFP)--Moslem rebels battling the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul today urged other nations to give political and military support to their fight against "the Soviet invasion" of Afghanistan.

In an interview here on the Afghanistan border, a rebel spokesman said the Soviet intervention and subsequent coup d'etat last week cannot be compared to U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam. Abdur Rahim Niazi said that, unlike the Vietnamese, the Afghanistan rebels "are without defence. We do not have outside support and we lack munitions." Other countries, especially Moslem ones, should provide support for the Moslem guerrillas as the present situation is dangerous for the whole region, he said.

Mr. Niazi said he was speaking for the regrouped rebel "front" that includes groups called "Jamiat-E-Islam Afghanistan" and "Huzbe Islami Afghanistan."

KABUL RADIO IN ARABIC JUSTIFIES REQUEST FOR SOVIET AID

JN011826 [Editorial Report JN] Kabul International Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 1 January broadcasts a 4-minute apparent text of a "statement issued by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] explaining the government's decision to request Soviet "political, military and moral aid."

The statement begins by accusing "imperialism, colonialism and reaction" of circulating "rumors and allegations harmful to the brave and honest Afghan people and the Government of the DRA." The statement says that these rumormongers base their allegations on the Afghan Government's "request for political, military and moral aid, in accordance with an agreement concluded in December 1978 with the USSR Government."

After outlining the state of affairs that existed in the country under Hafizollah Amin, the statement continues: "The government of the DRA would like to announce once again that the request of the DRA Government came as a result of several considerations and large-scale provocations by the foreign enemies of the Afghan people and by imperialism."

The statement adds: "It is not surprising that the United States of America is the leader" of this campaign of rumors against Afghanistan, for "since the eruption of the Sawr Revolution, the United States has adopted a hostile stand toward the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It is trying to (divert) world attention from its (suspect) aggression against Iran."

The statement explains: "In accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, nobody can deprive an independent state of its right to self-defense or prevent it from seeking financial aid from states with which it has signed international agreements."

The statement concludes: "The government and people of the DRA consider these allegations against their country as tantamount to an attempt to interfere in their domestic affairs and an obstacle to the triumph of the Sawr Revolution. The government of the DRA declares that when the aggression and intervention in [words indistinct] the necessity that dictated such aid will (disappear)."

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN

BK010331 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dacca last night, Bangladesh is deeply concerned over the recent developments in Afghanistan, a fellow nonalined Asian with whom we have close fraternal relations for a long time. The presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan and their direct involvement in the internal affairs of that country pose a serious threat to peace and stability in the region, the spokesman added.

In consistence with their commitment to the UN Charter and the principles of nonalinement, and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other states and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, Bangladesh has always resolutely opposed all forms of external interference in the affairs of any country. The presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan is a serious violation of these fundamental principles. He said Bangladesh upholds the (?national) and inalienable rights of the brotherly people of Afghanistan to determine freely their form of government and choose their economic, political and social system.

Bangladesh, therefore, calls for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan so that the people of that country are left free to determine their destiny without any outside interference or intervention, the spokesman said.

LAST BATCH OF BURMESE REFUGEES DEPARTS COUNTRY

BK301719 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Dec 79 BK

[Text] With the repatriation yesterday of the last batch of 1,293, all the Burmese refugees numbering 187,197 have now returned to Burma. This was disclosed by the home minister, Lt Col, retired, Mustafizur Rahman, while talking to newsmen in Dacca this afternoon.

The minister said the repatriation which was completed about 1 and 1/2 months ahead of schedule was possible due to the close cooperation of the Burmese Government. The home minister said the handling of the refugee problem by the Bangladesh Government was widely appreciated abroad.

INDIA

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN, U.S. ARMS TO PAKISTAN

BK311725 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1706 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Statement issued by the spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs; date not given]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador, his excellency Yuriy M. Vorontsov called on the prime minister December 31 evening at the latter's instance. While thanking the Soviet leadership for their message as conveyed to the Indian foreign secretary on the 27th December concerning the recent events in Afghanistan the prime minister expressed India's deep concern at the substantial involvement of Soviet military forces in Afghanistan. The prime minister recalled that both the USSR and India had agreed in June 1979 that both sides were opposed to any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The prime minister pointed out that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan would have far reaching adverse consequences for this region and for this reason expressed the hope that the Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan as soon as possible in accordance with the message conveyed by the Soviet leadership. The prime minister also reiterated that India cherishes its traditional close relationship with Afghanistan and would like its independence and nonalignment strengthened.

Earlier in the day, Gonsalves, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, called in the U.S. ambassador in connection with the reported lifting of the embargo on the supply of arms to Pakistan. India's grave concern over this matter was communicated to the U.S. authorities and it was pointed out that the supply of arms in the past to Pakistan had invariably led to an increase in the tension in South Asia. It was added that the immediate cause for the resumption of the supply of arms was stated to be on account of the situation in Afghanistan. However the need of the moment is to restore normalcy in the region, including in Afghanistan. The reported unwarranted induction of arms into Pakistan would be detrimental to the process.

Party Leaders Comment

BK311647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Charan Singh, has expressed concern over the reported American decision to resume arms aid to Pakistan in the wake of the developments in Afghanistan. Addressing a public meeting at Jhajjar in Haryana today, Mr Charan Singh said: We do not know what are the intentions of the Americans in sending arms to Pakistan but we know that they are going to be used against us.

Meanwhile the Soviet involvement in the recent developments in Afghanistan has come in for comments from various political parties.

The Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, says the whole area is destabilized and this means danger for India, too. Talking to newsmen in Jaipur she said she does not believe in intervention by any nation in the affairs of another.

Asked about the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi said others have also been doing the same thing here earlier. About the American hostages in Tehran, Mrs Gandhi said it is very bad to make innocent people suffer even though Iran may have something against the Americans. Her personal feeling was that the hunt for the deposed shah is also wrong.

The Janata Party leader and former external minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in a statement, has called upon the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and warned the United States against rearming Pakistan. Mr Vajpayee asked the big powers to keep their hands off the Indian subcontinent in the interest of peace and stability in the region. He said the people of Afghanistan must be left to resolve their own political problems in keeping with their choice and national character.

The Lok Dal is of the view that the Soviet action cannot inspire confidence in its neighboring areas. In a statement the party hoped that the Soviet Union would withdraw its troops at the earliest without what it called complicating the situation in Afghanistan and leave the matter to the people to settle on their own.

The party described the American decision as rash and unimaginable.

Demonstrations were held outside the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi today in protest against the Soviet involvement in the recent developments in Afghanistan. A number of youth with the Iranian and Afghan students raised slogans against the Soviet action and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Akhil Bharatya Vidharthi Parishad [All India Student's Union] took out a procession to the Soviet Embassy and condemned what they called Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They also held a demonstration before the American Embassy condemning resumption of American arms supply to Pakistan. Workers of the Socialist Party in a demonstration presented a memorandum to a Soviet Embassy official demanding withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Vajpayee Statement

BK011625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The former external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has said that the prime minister should take immediate steps to consult the opposition parties to formulate a stand on the developments in Afghanistan and the American decision to resume arms supplies to Pakistan. Mr Vajpayee, who was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, said it is evident from the statements of the leaders of various political parties that there is a broad national consensus on the issues.

Mr Vajpayee said India must take swift action in the matter. World events are chaning fast. Mr Vajpayee also demanded that a prominent public figure be sent to Washington and Moscow immediately in an effort to defuse the situation arising from the Soviet action in Afghanistan. Mr Vajpayee observed that if the decision to supply arms to Pakistan by America is not reversed, India will have to face a very grave situation. He said the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has given a pretext to America to justify its arms supply to Pakistan.

More Reaction

BK011626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Congress-I leader C.M. Stephens has said that the United States and the Soviet Union are posing a threat to India's security by interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that the sending of Soviet troops to Afghanistan is a violation of Pancasila. The chain of events leading to the U.S. decision to lift the embargo on arms supplies to Pakistan is a matter of concern to India, he added.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo has supported the Soviet move of sending troops to Afghanistan. A statement to this effect was issued in New Delhi today.

The All India Peace and Solidarity Organization has criticized the U.S. decision to resume the supply of arms to Pakistan.

Possible Recourse to UNSC

BK010348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A move is on foot to bring up the Soviet action in Afghanistan before the Security Council. PTI [Press Trust of India] quoting informed sources, reports from New York that Egypt and some of the Islamic states which are also nonalined together with the other members of the nonalined group are holding private discussions to bring the matter before the council. They might ask for a formal meeting later this week.

AFGHAN STUDENTS HOLD THREE EMBASSY DIPLOMATS HOSTAGE

BK020850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A large group of Afghan students today captured the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi in what they say is a symbolic protest against Soviet intervention against Afghanistan. They have been holding three Afghan diplomats as hostages. The students shouting slogans overpowered the security guards and entered the embassy. The military attache who offered resistance was overpowered. The hostages are said to have been locked in a room.

The students were carrying placards criticizing the Soviet Union. According to news agency reports a spokesman said on behalf of the students that they would release the officials when the embassy closes for the day. Normally it functions till 1400 hours [0830 GMT].

Students Vacate Embassy

BK021022 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A large group of Afghan students today seized the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi for a few hours in what they called a symbolic protest against Soviet intervention in their country. Shouting anti-Soviet slogans and waving placards they overpowered the security guards and entered the embassy in the morning. They vacated the premises at about 1400 [0830 GMT] when the embassy normally closes for the day. The students had held three Afghan diplomats as hostages during the occupation of the embassy.

INDIAN AIRLINES RESUMES KABUL FLIGHT, AIRPORT OPEN

BK020858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Indian airlines is operating a flight from New Delhi to Katmandu [as heard] today. The aircraft will leave in the afternoon and return in the evening.

The manager of the Afghan Ariana Airlines said in New Delhi that Ariana will operate its scheduled flights from tomorrow. He said the Kabul airport is opened to commercial traffic.

DELHI REPORTS ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION IN DACCA

BK021051 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Student demonstrators in Dacca damaged the offices of the Soviet trade and (?machinery) center in the city yesterday. They also damaged the office of the Bangladesh Communist Party.

The Bangladesh Islamic Chattra Sivir [students camp], a students organization, took out a procession demanding withdrawal of Soviet troops [from Afghanistan].

AFP: LOK DAL CONDEMNS U.S. MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

BK311051 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Dec (AFP)--Outgoing Prime Minister Charan Singh's Lok Dal party today condemned the United States' decision to resume military aid to Pakistan and said it would increase tension in this part of the world instead of reducing them.

In a press statement issued here by Parimal Kumar Das, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, described the U.S. decision coming in the wake of developments in Afghanistan, as "rash and unimaginative". Mr. Das said the action would result in the revival of the arms race in South Asia.

Carter Letter to Premier

BK311243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Charan Singh has received a communication from U.S. President Carter on the lifting of the American ban on arms supply to Pakistan following the developments in Afghanistan. The reaction of the Government of India to the communication is expected to be expressed later this evening.

According to an official spokesman, the American ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Goheen, was called to the Foreign Office today and some clarifications were sought from him on the points made by Mr Carter in his letter to the prime minister.

Pakistan's Nonalined Status Threatened

BK011621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Charan Singh's reply to U.S. President Carter's letter on developments in Afghanistan and related matters is being considered and may be sent in a few days.

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that the reply while dealing with the Afghan situation is also likely to reiterate India's concern over the U.S. decision to resume arms supply to Pakistan. He [correspondent] says that according to diplomatic sources the induction of U.S. arms would certainly affect Pakistan's nonalined status considerably. Pakistan was admitted to the movement at the nonalined summit in Havana in September last. It is pointed out that for a nonalined country to build up its arms strength for use against another nonalined country is untenable.

Reports from Washington say that the U.S. administration has indicated at the highest level that they would be restoring the [arms] supplies to Pakistan, linking the decision with the developments in Afghanistan. These reports say that the figure of $150 million worth of armaments for Pakistan is being mentioned. Prime Minister Charan Singh, it may be recalled, has said that these arms are going to be used against India. India's views have been communicated to the United States. U.S. Ambassador Robert Goheen, who had been called to the Foreign Office in this connection yesterday, left for Washington later in the evening for consultations.

Official Pakistan Clarification

BK020330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Pakistan has claimed that the arms supplied by the United States will not be used against India. The India ambassador to Islamabad, Mr K.S. Bajpai, was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday. The Pakistan Government is reported to have expressed what they called their regret over India's fears concerning the resumption of U.S. arms supply to Pakistan.

It may be recalled that Washington cut off the supply of arms to Pakistan following reports that Pakistan had embarked on a nuclear weapons program. The arms embargo has been lifted following the recent events in Afghanistan.

As already reported, India has expressed its grave concern over the resumption of U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. It was pointed out that unwarranted induction of arms to Pakistan will only aggravate the situation and will be detrimental to the process of normalization in the subcontinent.

Reports received in New Delhi from Washington indicate that the value of the arms likely to come into Pakistan may be between $100 and $150 million.

Washington Charge Consultation

BK020356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] India's charge d'affaires in Washington, Mr Ashok Gokhale met White House officials to express India's deep concern over the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. He had a meeting with Mr (Thornton), in charge of South Asia affairs and the deputy assistant secretary of state, Mrs Jane Coon. Mr Gokhale is likely to have wider discussions with U.S. officials on the issue within the next few days.

Indira Gandhi Comments

BK020600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The Congress-I president, Indira Gandhi, said that she did not make any personal remark against Jayprakash Narayan. She told newsmen in Patna that what she had said was that the call for total revolution was undemocratic because a number of legislators were forced to submit their resignations. The movement itself had gone out of control of Mr Narayan, she added. Mrs Gandhi claimed that her party will win a majority of seats in the coming Lok Sabha polls.

Referring to developments in Afghanistan, she said that the whole region including Iran is in a turmoil. Asked about the U.S. decision to supply arms to Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi wanted to know what happened to the special relationship which the Janata Government sought to establish with the United States.

AFP: INDO-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED IN DELHI 28 DEC

BK281555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 28 Dec (AFP)--Indo-Soviet trade turnover during the year 1980 would be about 19,000 million rupees ($2.375 million), under the trade protocol for the next year signed here between the two countries today.

The trade turnover during the current year is expected to reach 16,000 million rupees ($2 billion) against the target of 12,000 million rupees ($1.5 billion) envisaged in the protocol signed last year. This is partly due to increased turnover of physical imports and exports and partly due to rise in prices.

The 1980 protocol, which was signed by the visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister I.T. Grishin, provides for increased offtake from India of a number of commodities. They include instant coffee, fruit juices, cigarettes, dye stuffs, detergents, cosmetics, shoe uppers, woolen knitwear, ready made garments, garage equipment and handicrafts.

New items like roasted and salted peanuts, cotton sewing thread, cotton hosiery, steam boilers, incinerators, (?thermo-blocs), and printing machines have been introduced in the protocol.

Regarding imports by India the protocol provides for continued supplies of machinery items, crude oil, petroleum products, fertilisers, non-ferrous metals and newsprint.

Apart from signing the 1980 protocol, the two sides have also agreed to continue the present pattern of trade for the future trade agreement to be signed between the two countries for the period 1981-85.

The two delegations discussed proposals of both sides on the volume of trade turnover in the period ?1981-85 and agreed upon the quantities of mutual deliveries of a number of items. Discussions are expected to be concluded during the next round of meetings scheduled to be held in Moscow sometime in April-May next year.

CHARAN SINGH GIVES LOK DAL PARTY ELECTION BROADCAST

BK291202 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1500 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Election speech by Lok Dal leader Charan Singh--recorded]

[Summary] Today, when I appeal to cast your votes in favor of the Lok Dal, you might ask why. My answer is that now, when all the parties are loudly pleading for the eradication of poverty, Lok Dal is the only party which has placed before the people a clearcut formula to do just that. "Our party has made it clear that there is no soft option for this country. That is, if the poor are to be helped, somebody somewhere has to accept sacrifices. Somebody must pay and perhaps very dearly, if poverty is to be eliminated quickly".

I believe you have read our party's election manifesto. There we emphatically state that heavy taxes will be levied on luxury goods. We will give importance to the welfare of the poor rather than to manufacturing televisions, air conditioners and cars. We would spend more on drinking water projects than on setting up five star hotels in the country. Instead of building skyscrapers money will bee used for the construction of houses for the poor.

I tell you that the Lok Dal alone among the parties has dared to touch the rich community in India, which is exploiting the poor. Our party is committed to the development of cottage and small scale industry, thereby bringing benefits to the millions of poor in the country.

"During Mrs Gandhi's 11 year rule our country's position in the world slipped from 83th to 111th. There are now only 14 countries in the world which are poorer than India, and the majority of those countries are so small that it can be said that India is tne poorest among the big nations."

"Our party is the only party which has a coherent social and economic policy that will force sacrifices on the rich and make necessary plans and provide necessary resources for the quick removal of poverty, unemployment and inequality of wealth and income.

"It is only natural that the rich, whose interests are threatened by the Lok Dal, use their media to spread falsehoods about the party. Abuses are being hurled at me and my colleagues for breaking with the Janata Party. But they sometimes forget that the Janata Party is trying to place at the forefront as a leader a man who once moved the resolution of emergency in the parliament and justified the arrest of Jayaprakash Narayan. Later he joined the Janata Party when he discovered that his maligned leader, Mrs Gandhi, had little chance of winning the election."

Although the press tries to malign me in every possible way, I can say without hesitation that I have fought against landlordism and worked for the upliftment of the poor.

"Our manifesto says that the Lok Dal will follow the path of peaceful resistance if citizens' rights are threatened by any government. This gives meaning to Mahatma Gandhi's saying that real freedom is gained not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of capacity of all to resist the authority when it is abused."

The Lok Dal philosophy can be explained in one sentence: "It will work for the transfer of power to the rural and urban poor, the small and medium peasants, the artisans and the landless workers, the destitutes and the suppressed men and women whom Gandhiji described as the dumb millions of India."

REGIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SHOT DEAD

BK010720 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Jan (AFP)--A veteran pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) leader in Manipur, Thockchom Bira Singh, was shot dead early this morning by two armed youths at his residence in Imphal, capital of the east Indian state, reports reaching here said. Mr Bira Singh, 50, was a candidate for the forthcoming assembly election in the state.

It was the second major incident in the tense state where pro-independence rebels had asked the people to boycott the poll. On December 12, speaker of the state assembly R.K. Banbir Singh was shot and severely wounded by unidentified gunmen.

The reports said Mr Bira Singh, former secretary general of the Manipur unit of CPI, was called outside his room by the youths who fired two bullets at point blank range.

A state government spokesman in Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, said a total of 124 persons had been arrested in various parts of the province till Monday during incidents relating to the election campaign. A total of 104 incidents had been reported although there had been no fatal casualties.

In Allabahad, east Uttar Pradesh, the district magistrate has banned carrying of fire arms, knives, batons and hockey sticks for a period of 26 days. The order had been promulgated in view of the growing strained relations between the campaigners of various political parties, reports said.

INDIRA GANDHI INTERVIEW ON PARTY POLICY, ARMS, RELATIONS

LD011626 Hamburg DPA in German 1521 GMT 1 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Bonn--Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is determined not to assume the office of prime minister even in the event of a convincing election victory on 6 January. In an interview with the weekly newspaper RHEINISCHER MERKUR-CHRIST UND WELT, Mrs Gandhi said: "I don't want to, at any rate. What is important is that the policy is changed. But the program of our policy is decided by the party."

Mrs Gandhi said that the Indian policy of neutrality would be continued. The friendship treaty with Moscow and the previous supplies of arms from the Soviet Union are no obstacle to this. "We buy weapons where we manage to get them," she said.

An edited version of the interview, which will appear in the Thursday edition of the newspaper, was prereleased to DPA.

ASSAM STATE STRIKES TO PRESS DEMAND TO POSTPONE POLLS

BK010905 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0851 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Train and air services to and from Assam were cancelled following observance of a statewide bundh [strike] from the morning of January 1st, reports AIR [All India Radio].

The 58-hour bundh is being observed to press the demand for a postponement of elections in all constituencies and to protest against partial polling in the state. In Gauhati, shops were closed and there was no vehicular traffic on the road. However, essential services including telephones and telegraphs, milk, fire, medical and electricity services have been exempted from the purview of the bundh.

NEPAL

GOVERNMENT OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

BK011127 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Katmandu, 1 Jan (AFP)--Nepal has described the recent political developments in Afghanistan as "fraught with dangers to peace and stability".

While strongly opposing to the foreign intervention in Afghanistan--a nonaligned sovereign country--a spokesman of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said "Nepal opposes foreign intervention wherever it may occur and holds it as a matter of principle and faith that foreign troops be withdrawn forthwith within national boundaries".

The spokesman added that "over a period of time in recent years the Nepalese Government has been watching the events in Afghanistan with increasing concern".

He said "the recent developments, including the large Soviet military presence in that nonaligned sovereign country, have deeply aggravated our concern, as they are fraught with dangers to peace and stability".

"The Nepalese Government believes in the inviolability of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and their right to determine and chart their own destiny by themselves without foreign interference." The spokesman continued.

Meanwhile, K.P. Bhattarai, the acting president of the outlawed Nepali congress has said "the Soviet Union's move in Afghanistan has suddenly brought into sharp focus intentions of a superpower which is intensely wedded to an ideology not effectable [as received] to many".

Bhattarai said "instead of a peaceful and democratic competition to bring about the victory of communist ideology, the Soviet Union has unfortunately chosen to establish outside its border through use of force. [sentence as received]

"This should be condemned in the strongest terms by all freedom lovers throughout the world," Bhattarai added.

Likewise Katmandu's largest English daily THE RISING NEPAL while condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has emphasized that for the cause of regional and world peace, "there should be a speedy end of foreign intervention followed by allowing the Afghan people the right to decide their own future".

"The absence of this will surely introduce a new and dangerous element in an already volatile area," the paper said.

POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED TO MARK KING'S BIRTHDAY

BK291223 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 29 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Dec 29 (AFP)--The Home Ministry today released 324 prisoners, including some political detainees, to mark the 34th birthday of King Birendra, it was learned from official sources.

The birthday was itself celebrated with pomp and ceremony, including a mile-long procession of people to the royal palace to extend greetings to the king. The procession was led by the prime minister, Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, and included other cabinet ministers, high-ranking civil and military officials as well as teachers and schoolchildren.

PAKISTAN

INA: SOVIET AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS AFGHAN ISSUE

JN311431 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Islamabad, 31 December--The INA correspondent in Islamabad learned today that the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan conveyed a message to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq from his government last Friday dealing with the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The ambassador added that the Soviet ambassador explained his governments policy to the Pakistani president, asserting that the dispatch of Soviet troops to Afghanistan came at an official request by the Afghan Government to assist it to confront any foreign intervention and in implementation of the provisions of the Soviet-Afghan treaty signed between the two countries at the beginning of 1979.

Paper Demands Soviet Withdrawal

BK011725 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Karachi, 1 Jan (AFP)--The leading Pakistan newspaper (DAWN) reacted sharply to the Soviet-backed coup in the neighbouring Afghanistan and demanded immediate withdrawal of the Soviet troops from that country.

The English language daily said in an editorial on the new year eve: "With the crisis in American-Iranian relations showing no signs of easing and with the Soviet Union having assumed a role in Afghanistan, the south and southwest Asian region can be expected to emerge as a hotbed of big power rivalry and intrigue.

"Unless concerted measures are taken to defuse the tensions which are building up and all the big powers reach an explicit understanding to follow a hands off policy, which would also involve a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, the countries bordering Iran and Afghanistan could involuntarily be sucked into the orbit of this ruthless struggle," the editorial said.

Afghan Refugee Numbers Swell

BK011735 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] It was officially stated in Islamabad that the number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan increased to 387,575, out of which 334,506 are staying in the frontier province and 51,928 in Baluchistan while 1,141 are stationed in northern areas.

KARACHI URGES WALDHEIM TO GO TO IRAN ON FACTFINDING MISSION

BK291823 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 29 Dec 79 BK

[Commentary by Mukhtar Zaman]

[Text] Mr Agha Shahi the adviser of the president on foreign affairs has just returned after an important 2 day visit to Tehran. He was invited by the Iranian foreign minister, Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, and he also called on Aytollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. Coming at this juncture when Iran-United States relations are making headlines in the world press, the visit was of great significance.

The statement issued after the talks by the Pakistan Embassy in Tehran has highlighted the important issue that came up for discussion. Furthermore, the statement clearly defines the policy of the Pakistan Government on the Iranian situation. Mr Agha Shahi has disclosed that he delivered President Ziaul Haq's letter to Imam Khomeyni.

The most significant point that Mr Shahi has made in the policy statement is Pakistan's opposition to the possible use of force against Iran. He also took exception to the freeze of Iranian financial assets. Speculations have been going on during the last few weeks that the United States might resort to force to get the American hostages free. Of course, the President of the United States has discounted such a possibility at least for the time being. But one never knows how the situation might develop. Pakistan's policy has been made unequivocally clear just in time on this issue. This is a correct approach because Pakistan as a neighbor, as a friend of Tehran and as a Muslim country carries certain responsibilities. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. It is essential that the United States' policymakers should know the feelings of this country about the Iranian situation. The letter sent by the Pakistan president has also reiterated full solidarity of the government and people of Pakistan with the Islamic Revolution of Iran under the supreme guidance of Imam Khomeyni.

Efforts to cripple Iran militarily or financially are frought with dangerous consequences from many points of view. They may lead to internal chaos, destabilization of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region and an invitation to interference of other elements in the Iranian situation. Such a step may even prove counterproductive from Washington's point of view. Therefore, it was really a statesmanlike gesture to call a spade a spade and tell the truth to Washington.

Mr Shahi's statement does not confine [words indistinct] it specifically suggests what the world community should do at this critical juncture. It has been pointed out that Iran should receive even-handed justice from the United Nations. For that purpose it is essential that the Iranian side of debate should be taken fully into account. To (?receive that gesture) the United Nations secretary general, Mr Kurt Waldheim, should visit Iran on a fact finding mission. Mr Shahi said such a step by the secretary general was not only desirable but also advisible regardless of the outcome of the visit. His view was that a modest initial step sustained and pursued alone could lead to peaceful and honorable solution of the problem.

This is an important point owing to worldwide propaganda by the powerful Western media. So much dust has been raised that the main issues have been clouded from view. Iran's point of view should be heard directly from lips of those who are at the helm of affairs in that country. Any military step or thoughtless action might worsen the situation. Hence the adviser has recommended that the United Nations secretary general should visit Iran. As head of the world body that aims at maintaining peace, it is his duty to hear Iran's view and advise accordingly.

One thing is certain, force, vanity or rashness will not lead to happy result.

Shahi Clarifies Report

BK311714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Text] A statement issued in Islamabad today by the adviser on foreign affairs has described as wholly uncalled for and unwarranted a report that Mr Agha Shahi settled details of the visit of the UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim to Iran during his meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni in Qom. The report has been published in national newspapers and circulated by a section of the Western news media saying that the United States had drawn up plans for the UN secretary general's visit to Iran and the details were settled by Mr Agha Shahi.

The statement says the report is not in accordance with facts. It says the UN Secretary General, who was in contact with the adviser on foreign affairs on ways to ease U.S.-Iran tension over the question of hostages, was anxious to lend his good offices and pay a visit to Ayatollah Khomeyni. Mr Agha Shahi, in his meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni in Qom on the 27th of this month, commended the desire of the secretary general to visit Iran and he further pursued the subject of the visit in his meetings with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr Qotbzadeh, and other Iranian officials. In a statement issued before his departure from Tehran, the adviser on foreign affairs supported Dr Waldheim's visit as necessary for a better appreciation by the United Nations of Iran's stand in its dispute with the United States.

The statement said to link Pakistan in any initiative in this regard with any U.S. plan in which Pakistan has nothing whatever to do is wholly uncalled for and unwarranted.

KARACHI NOTES BRZEZINSKI'S REMARKS ON PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE

BK311534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Text] U.S. National Security Adviser Brzezinski has said President Carter has authorized him to declare openly that the United States will fulfill its commitments to the defense of Pakistan.

In a statement he said that in the event of an attack on Pakistan, the U.S. Government, in line with its constitutional obligations, will take necessary action after mutual agreement.

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS 'ISLAMIC NUCLEAR BOMB' NEARING COMPLETION

LD281555 Kuwait AS-SAIYASAH in Arabic 27 Dec 79 pp 1, 16 LD

[Diplomatic editor report: "The Islamic Nuclear Bomb; Pakistan Briefs Saudi Arabia and Iran on It; Pakistani-Libyan Nuclear Bomb Might Become Ready Before Middle of Next Year"]

[Text] Reports circulating in diplomatic circles say that part of the aim Pakistani President Gen Ziaul Haq's visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom which ended yesterday and of Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi's sudden visit to Tehran yesterday was to acquaint the two Islamic states (Saudi Arabia and Iran) with what has been described as an advanced stage in the completion of "the Islamic nuclear bomb." The reports circulated--which are difficult to confirm--add that Pakistan-Libyan cooperation in the manufacture of a nuclear bomb has, during recent weeks passed a crucial stage, making it possible to expect the bomb to become ready before the middle of the coming year, thus prompting Pakistan to present the details of the matter to the Islamic countries.

Although many observer circles have not been taking the question of a Pakistani Islamic nuclear bomb seriously and have been looking at it merely as some sort of a political uproar from which several parties would benefit to various degrees, other sources now talk seriously about this bomb as being a pursuit [matlaban] which Libya paid large sums to bring about and which Pakistan has carried through to an advanced stage.

Various earlier reports said Pakistan had obtained the uranium necessary for the manufacture of the bomb from one of two sources: either through a British-Dutch-German firm for which a Pakistani engineer was working, or through the smuggling of uranium-laden trucks from Niger to Libya and thence to Pakistan.

It is worth noting that the question of the Pakistani nuclear problem is not new, in that it was previously raised during the rule of late Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto. It was said at the time that this matter was the cause for U.S. insistence on toppling Bhutto. The subject was brought up once again in the past few months as an item of Libyan-Pakistani cooperation--in manufacturing this weapon which is intended to become an Islamic weapon likely to be of the advantage to the rest of the Islamic countries. It was probably in view of the latter possibility that recent reports have said the matter is now being put to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and Iran as two Islamic states with whom Pakistan has a particular desire to cooperate.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

BK011733 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that India would fully reciprocate Pakistan's sincere desire for good neighborly relations and regional harmony and eschew negativism in its attitude toward Pakistan.

This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today after the Indian ambassador was called to the Foreign Office this evening. The attention of the Indian ambassador was drawn to Prime Minister Charan Singh's statement yesterday reported by New Delhi Radio expressing concern over the reported American decision to lift the arms embargo against Pakistan and his apprehension that the arms will be used against India.

It was pointed out to the ambassador that far from desiring conflicts or confrontation, Pakistan had been consistently seeking improved relations with India and other neighboring countries and remained firmly committed to this policy. It was further a matter of deep regret that the Indian Government continued to cast doubts on Pakistan's peaceful intentions and oppose Pakistan's efforts to acquire even a minimum defensive capability.

On the other hand, it was stated India itself has embarked upon a major program of modernization of its armed forces and was engaged in acquiring most sophisticated weapons systems from various sources.

In his latest statement the Indian prime minister himself had favored the strengthening of India's defense forces in a big way and said the prosperity of a developing country was linked with the secured border. It was pointed out to the ambassador that this consideration was equally valid in Pakistan's case.

The spokesman said the Indian ambassador was reminded of Pakistan's long-standing offer to enter into negotiations with India for a mutual balanced reduction of forces.

The ambassador was reassured that Pakistan will continue its efforts to build better relations with India and other neighboring countries on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful settlement of differences.

SRI LANKA

USSR ASSURES GOVERNMENT ABOUT TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

BK311616 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 31 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Colombo 31 Dec (AFP)--The Soviet Union today assured Sri Lanka that Soviet troops in Afghanistan would be withdrawn "as soon as the external threat disappears".

This assurance was given when the Soviet Ambassador Aleksey S. Pasyutin called on Sri Lanka's Deputy Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando here today according to a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry.

The ambassador stated "that the leadership of Afghanistan approached the Soviet Union for help and assistance in a fight against external aggression and that in accordance with the treaty of friendship, good neighbourhood and cooperation of 1978, in the interests of preserving peace in the region, the Soviet Government responded positively and decided to send to Afghanistan limited military contingents to carry out tasks as decided by the Afghanistan leadership", the release (?said).

Mr. Pasyutin "also assured the Sri Lanka Government that the Soviet Union will withdraw its military contingents from the territory of Afghanistan as soon as the external threat disappears", the release said.

He also stated that the Soviet Government's sole wish is to see Afghanistan as an independent sovereign state, the ministry release said. The ministry in its press release did not indicate whether the ambassador had elaborated on the alleged "external aggression".

The Sri Lanka Government has so far not made any official comments on this week's developments in Afghanistan.